

Hanratty inquiry did not interview key witnesses



Hanratty: last man to be hanged in Britain

By ROBIN YOUNG

A SCOTLAND Yard inquiry concluded that James Hanratty, the last man to be hanged in Britain, was wrongly convicted, even though two important witnesses in the case were not interviewed.

Hanratty was executed in 1962 at the age of 25 for what became known as the A6 murder at Deadman's Hill in Bedfordshire, but doubts about his conviction played a significant part in MPs' voting to abolish capital punishment in 1965.

The Home Office yesterday confirmed that it was in contact with Hanratty's family's lawyers about the

report, and that any application they might make for the case to be reopened would be given consideration.

The report, prepared by Detective Superintendent Roger Matthews, one of the Yard's most experienced investigators, took 18 months to complete and was presented two months ago but has still not been seen by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary. It remains with C3, the Home Office department set up to deal with miscarriages of justice. The report, based on a re-examination of the piles of evidence in the case, concludes that whoever killed Michael Gregsten, a 36-year-old research scientist, and shot and raped his 22-year-old mistress, Valerie Storie, leaving her

partially paralysed and confined to a wheelchair, was hired to break up their relationship.

The prosecution case against Hanratty took no account of the possibility that others were involved in the murder beside the neatly dressed gunman with "staring eyes" who waylaid the couple in their Morris Minor at their habitual meeting place, a cornfield near Maidenhead, Berkshire, forced them to drive 60 miles to a lay-by on the A6, and then shot them.

Janet Gregsten, who knew about her husband's love affair with Miss Storie, died in January last year, immediately after giving an interview to Paul Foot, author of *Who killed Hanratty?*, a

book arguing Hanratty's innocence which suggested that she and her family might have hired someone to separate Mr Gregsten from his mistress. In the interview Mrs Gregsten for the first time said she was no longer convinced of Hanratty's guilt and thought that the police's original suspect in the case, a door-to-door salesman called Peter Alphon, was more likely to have been involved.

Mrs Gregsten also revealed that she had had an affair with her brother-in-law, William Ewer, an antiques dealer now living in retirement in Golders Green, northwest London. Neither Mr Alphon nor Mr Ewer was interviewed in connection with the inquiry.

Tourist is raped by youths beside canal

An Austrian tourist on a weekend shopping trip to London was raped by a gang of six teenagers as she walked from her hotel in King's Cross. The youths, aged between 14 and 20, threw her into a canal when she said that she could not swim. The 32-year-old woman, who is married with two children, was followed and dragged on to the towpath of the Regent's Park canal where she was stripped naked, seriously sexually assaulted and raped during a 90-minute ordeal. She managed to swim to the opposite bank and to call for help.

The gang, four of whom are of Afro-Caribbean origin, stole her leather jacket and £50. The victim was treated for cuts, bruises and severe shock by ambulance crew and has been counselled over the weekend by specially trained police officers. She was due to fly back home yesterday.

Union play 'backfires'

A trade union attempt to embarrass Tony Blair by cutting off his financial sponsorship appeared last night to have backfired. MPs on the modernising wing of the Labour Party said the Transport and General Workers Union had played into the leader's hands by withdrawing sponsorship for Mr Blair and 29 Labour MPs including Gordon Brown and Harriet Harman. The decision to halt the funding was made in protest at the reduction of the trade union influence.

Terrorists to go home

Three IRA terrorists are to be transferred from jails in England to serve their sentences in the Irish Republic. The men are expected to be moved to the Republic in the next few days. The three are Michael O'Brien from Dublin serving 18 years, Derek Doherty, 23, and Paraic MacPhail, 42. Doherty was jailed for 25 years in October 1994 for conspiracy to cause explosions following a bombing campaign in London in which 12 devices were planted.

Prisoners reoffend

A study of 77 of the 541 prisoners released early from jail last month has found that almost one third have reoffended, been arrested or breached their parole. The early releases were rushed through after a change in Prison Service guidelines governing length of sentence in relation to time spent on remand in custody before conviction. The changes were later scrapped by the Home Secretary. Among those freed were sex offenders, violent criminals and drug addicts.

Benefits staff strike

Work at Benefits Agency offices will be severely disrupted by strike action today when thousands of staff walk out in a dispute over security. The action is part of a campaign by the Civil and Public Services Association to have security screens installed in jobcentres in time for the introduction of the new jobseeker's allowance next month. Staff fear this will lead to an increase in violence because of the unpopularity of the allowance. Further action is planned for October 7.

Meningitis warning

People of all ages have been warned to watch out for the symptoms of a deadly strain of meningitis that does not affect only children. The National Meningitis Trust, whose annual awareness week starts today, said cases of the most lethal strain were increasing. The symptoms include vomiting, severe headaches and a stiffness in the neck. Sufferers may also develop an aversion for bright lights, drowsiness, lethargy, joint pains or fits.

Teachers watch weight

Concern over the workload on teachers takes on a new dimension today with a classroom union instructing its members not to lift anything heavy. The 150,000-strong Association of Teachers and Lecturers is recommending staff to carefully consider the weight of books and minor equipment and never to move pianos, filing cabinets or cupboards. The union says such jobs are the responsibility of janitors or contract staff.

New low pay body will be permanent commission

By PHILIP BASSETT AND ANDREW PIERCE

LABOUR's proposed Low Pay Commission, on which business leaders will sit to help to set a national minimum wage, will be established as a permanent body to oversee its enforcement.

Tony Blair is resisting calls to make the commission a more wide-ranging body dealing with employment issues other than a minimum wage but he is determined to make the commission a central part of the annual economic cycle under a Labour government.

Mr Blair, who is under pressure from trade union leaders to set a £4.26 hourly rate as part of a General Election manifesto commitment, is also coming under pressure from some Labour MPs to fix a 50 pence high rate of income tax.

Several Shadow Cabinet ministers are pressing the case but the Labour leadership insisted last night that there was no chance of changing the party's tough line on taxation. Only last week the party leadership decided against a cut-off point for receipt of Labour's proposed replacement for child benefit at £100,000.

A Labour source said last night: "Some people in the party would like a higher rate of taxation but it has been made abundantly clear it is not going to happen. None of our spending plans involve any increases in taxation."

Mr Blair is studying detailed proposals on the size and operation of a Low Pay Commission (LPC) which will make a recommendation on one of the most sensitive policy

areas facing a new Labour government. The Commission will start work within days of Labour winning the election.

The remit of the Commission will be wider than originally envisaged. Proposals under consideration include recommending a training rate allowance for people aged 16-18 who will not be covered by the minimum wage. The Commission would also conduct periodic reviews of the minimum wage to ensure that it is regarded as a long-term feature of the jobs market under a Labour government.

It would be empowered to consider matters referred to it by ministers and have the responsibility to oversee and monitor enforcement mechanisms for a national minimum wage. The Commission would make formal reports to Parliament on its work which would also include publicising the minimum wage. It will also also cover homeworkers and family members working for family firms.

Membership would be drawn from employers' and employees' and organisations such as the Confederation of British Industry. Work would begin soon after the election of a Labour government. The commission would have statutory standing.

Harriet Harman, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, will today write to the leaders of Britain's trade unions to seek their support against a Barbara Castle motion at the Labour Party conference to restore the link between average earnings and the state pension.



Peter de Savary has announced he will fight Sebastian Coe for the Falmouth and Camborne seat

Goldsmith wins year-long fight for party political broadcast

By ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR James Goldsmith has won a year-long fight against the three main political parties over the right of the Referendum Party to give a party political broadcast during the general election campaign.

The financier, buoyed by his victory, has appointed an advertising agency to mastermind a campaign right up to the election. Banks, Hoggins and O'Shea, which which dreads the "Tell Sid" campaign for the sale of British Gas, will begin work this week on ideas for a five-minute party political broad-

cast, a nationwide poster campaign and a leaflet drive.

The Tories, who fear the Referendum Party could cost them up to 20 seats, will be dismayed that Sir James has won the right to such prime time television and radio exposure.

But the Committee on Party Political Broadcasting, after taking legal advice, dropped plans to introduce a requirement for "proven electoral support" before any party could have a political broadcast.

The authorities have agreed to abide by the rules of the last election which will enable any party which fields more than 50 candidates to have at least

one broadcast. Sir James has instructed the agency to produce a slick campaign. He has pledged to spend £20 million "or whatever it takes" to match the millions the Tories are spending on the "New Labour, new danger" campaign.

The Referendum Party had mounted a legal challenge to the Committee on Party Political Broadcasting, whose members include the Chief Whips of the three main parties and officials from the BBC and ITN.

The breakthrough on the broadcast was timely. Last week the Referendum Party was embarrassed by the leak of an internal memorandum

which suggested that its candidates were "too old and too few" to fight a proper election campaign.

At the weekend the party announced it had captured another high profile candidate. Peter de Savary, the businessman and former America's Cup challenger, will fight Sebastian Coe, the double Olympic gold medalist, in Falmouth and Camborne. Mr de Savary, 53, who owns a shipyard in Cornwall, and has strong local links with the area, will be fighting to overturn Mr Coe's slender 3,000 majority.

Conservative Central Office will be dismayed by the triumph for Sir James.

Tories want curbs on the power of Court of Justice

By A STAFF REPORTER

LEADING Tories are demanding action to restrict the powers of the "remote, meddling and biased" European Court of Justice which, they claim, is acting more like a parliament in headlong pursuit of Euro-integration.

At the same time, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, pledged that Britain would propose measures to ensure that the court did not stray beyond its role amid concern that it was adopting its own political agenda.

Mr Howard expressed the

Government's own concern that the court was making judgments beyond its remit — particularly the ruling that Britain must compensate Spanish fishermen prevented from fishing Britain's quota — in a new document published by the European Research Group. The group comprises Conservative MPs and other politicians and lawyers from across the EU.

Mr Howard, who warned that trying to follow the federal route in Europe would result in a "political earthquake", said that the European Court of Justice existed

to ensure that member states played by the rules.

"We need to ensure the Court operates within the remit given to it by the member states. There is growing concern that the Court is increasing its competence and adopting its own political agenda."

Sir Michael Spicer, chairman of the group, said: "The Court is acting less like a court than a parliament, making new laws in its headlong pursuit of European integration. A number of recent judgments have made this Court seem remote."

Single currency

Continued from page 1
Prime Minister has always maintained.

Opposition parties meanwhile sought to capitalise on the row. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said: "The Tories are at war again. They are irrevocably split. This is damaging Britain's interests in Europe." And Alan Beith of the Liberal Democrats said Mr Clarke was being forced into a corner by those whose policies "can only lead to Britain backing out of Europe altogether".

Paddy Ashdown, however, accused both Tories and Labour of a "conspiracy of deceit", saying a decision on a single currency would have to be made a few weeks after the

general election, but neither party was willing to campaign on the issue because both feared internal splits.

In his radio interview, Mr Clarke said that the finance ministers meeting in Dublin had believed that they were in the last two, three or four years of producing economic and monetary union in the centre of Europe.

He would not be in favour of joining if it was not being done properly, but Britain's future was immersed with other EU states since the economy performed better when the German, French and Italian economies were booming. "If they go ahead and form a Euro-zone, it matters an awful lot to us."

Government braces for new human rights ruling

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is preparing for the prospect of a fresh adverse ruling in the European Court of Human Rights this week over its treatment of gypsies.

The Strasbourg court is to give its decision in a test case over Britain's planning laws which the European Commission on Human Rights has already ruled are a violation of the gypsies' right to enjoy their traditional way of life. Some 50 cases are in the pipeline awaiting the outcome

of the Strasbourg challenge. The first gypsy case ever to go to the European Court.

It has been brought by June Buckley, a single mother of three, over her attempt to obtain permission to live in a caravan on land she owns on the outskirts of Wellingham, Cambridgeshire. If she wins, the case would have wide ramifications for the 350,000-strong gypsy population which has in recent years faced increasingly restrictive laws on where they can reside.

Mrs Buckley's attempt to gain planning permission for her family to live in three

caravans on the site she has owned since 1988 was turned down by South Cambridgeshire District Council in 1991. Before that she had no fixed abode.

She was prosecuted and fined for living there; but since the lodging of the court case, the council has taken no further action. In February 1992 she took her case to the European Commission on Human Rights — the first hurdle in bringing a challenge — and this found in her favour by seven to five, ruling that the council had violated her right to a family life.

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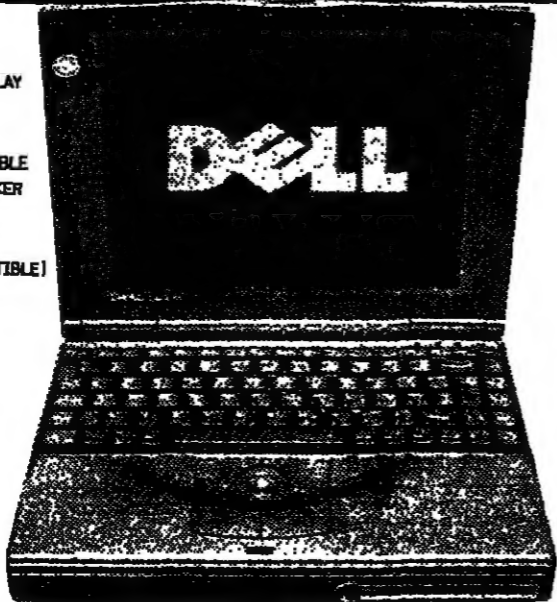
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In runaway bishop's cathedral, quiet words of sorrow; at his hideaway, a melee

Church condemns the 'Judas' who took press silver

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

ALTAR candles refused to light, despite repeated attempts, at yesterday's 9am Mass at the cathedral where Wright had been based. The priest, Father Sean MacAulay, said that the "bizarre" incident had distracted him because in the past the Roman Catholic rite of excommunication involved extinguishing candles.

The mood at St Columba's Cathedral, Oban, was one of shock and disgust as churchgoers struggled to contain their anger at the former bishop's treachery. Words of condemnation were expressed by parishioners and priests alike.

Some 60 people turned up for Mass on the morning that his story appeared in the *News of the World*. They were told by Father MacAulay: "Like

Christ was betrayed by someone in his group for 30 pieces of silver, perhaps we feel similarly betrayed at this moment in time.

"Christ was betrayed by Judas, but Peter also denied him. The difference was that Peter repented." The Rev Roddy Johnston, the cathedral's dean, said that he heard at least one parishioner refer to the former bishop as Judas.

Mr Wright's decision to sell his story was the final blow for his flock. Father MacAulay said he was certain that a six-figure sum was involved because reporters had asked him to pass on offers starting at £220,000. In the past Bishop Wright had spoken against chequebook journalism, he added. *The News of the World*

said it paid a "modest five-figure sum" for the joint confessions of Mr Wright and Kathleen MacPhee.

Father MacAulay said that the mood toward Mr Wright had changed over the past week, particularly when it emerged that he had fathered a son, Kevin Whibley, now 15, whom he had failed to support.

Frances Shand Kydd, the mother of Diana, Princess of Wales was among 350 people at yesterday's second Mass at St Columba's. She said: "I'm here today to support the Catholic Church and all the priests, especially those in Argyll and the Isles." She made no reply when asked if she still supported Mr Wright.

Father Tom Connelly, spokesman for the Catholic Church in Scotland, said that he was devastated. Roddy Wright had not been in touch. "Our faith has been severely tried and tested, but we believe in the power of Christ to heal the wounds of sin and division. We must forgive so that we can heal."

Mrs MacPhee's family in Fort William refused to comment on the *News of the World* revelations or the fact that her three children were allegedly to benefit from the money.

Father Noel Barry, the spokesman for Cardinal Thomas Winning, head of Scottish Catholicism, said that Mr Wright had had effectively excommunicated himself. "Although he has expressed his wish to remain a Catholic, the reality is that he has cut himself off from the Church. Excommunication is a legal word, but the man has effectively done that himself."

"Nobody is beyond redemption, but Roddy Wright has displayed no signs that he is repentant, quite the contrary in fact. The current situation is that he has resigned as bishop and is suspended from functioning as a priest."

William Rees-Mogg, page 20



Outside Oban cathedral yesterday: "We feel betrayed," Father MacAulay told reporters. Mrs Shand Kydd arrived "to support all priests"



Fugitives take off through the allotment

BY KATE ALDERSON

UNDER cover of darkness and accompanied by *News of the World* reporters, Roderick Wright and Kathleen MacPhee fled their hideaway in the Lake District in the early hours of yesterday morning by running through an allotment.

The former Bishop of Argyll and the Isles and Mrs MacPhee, with whom he ran away two weeks ago, had been lying low for ten days in a £70-a-week rented holiday home in Kendal until the tabloid press learnt of their secret refuge. The couple, settling into what they optimistically thought would be their quiet shelter from the storm outside, moved a mattress into the house and went on occasional trips to the shops.

Mr Wright, always seen by neighbours wearing sunglasses, went out jogging and on one occasion Mrs MacPhee collapsed in hysterical laughter in the garden as the couple struggled to haul their mattress into the house.

By Saturday lunchtime their cover had been blown and, besieged by rival media organisations, the couple struck an exclusive deal to sell their story to the *News of the World*. For the next 24 hours the small terrace, Mountain View, became a venue for intense media scrutiny and, at times, high farce.

At the grey stone house, set on a busy crossroads and opposite a news-

agent's shop, the curtains were drawn and *News of the World* journalists were let into the sparsely furnished house by an unseen person. Within hours, the Bishop's story was being filed to London with pictures as word spread among national newspapers of their whereabouts and the media gathered outside.

The *News of the World* staff went out late on Saturday night to buy a takeaway for the couple and the lights inside the house went out at 1.30am on Sunday. At around 4am the Bishop and Mrs MacPhee were smuggled out of the house through the back garden's rocky allotment.

The escape route, from the kitchen door, was unlit, steep and winding and probably took the fleeing party across an overgrown field where getaway cars awaited.

At around the same time, a middle-aged man and an apparently drunk young woman wearing a mini-skirt pulled up outside the terrace in a taxi. They staggered up the long garden to the couple's front door, knocked and, when they received no reply, loudly knocked on the neighbouring door. The man proclaimed loudly that his companion was Mr Wright's daughter.

Emily Mitchell, a pensioner, answered the door and politely told the rowdy couple that, if such was the case, she was Donald Duck. The



The house in Kendal where the couple had taken refuge

couple then wobbled back down the garden before the young woman, in her 20s, fell over, baring her bottom and underwear to the assembled photographers.

Speculation was intensifying yesterday that the drunken couple's visit may have been a decoy to allow Mr Wright and Mrs MacPhee to escape through the back garden while all was chaos and flashlights at the front of the house.

In the cold light of Sunday morning, the terrace appeared emp-

ty. The remnants of a last supper of white sliced bread, lemonade, coffee, bananas and a bottle of whisky lay abandoned on a table at the back of the house.

Some residents of Kendal, a pretty tourist town on the edge of the Lake District, wandered past Mount View in bewilderment and stared at the tightly pulled curtains.

Half a mile away at the Holy Trinity and St George's Catholic Church, Father Christopher Loughran told his congregation not to talk to the press. One woman quoted the Bible to reporters. "Jesus said to Peter: 'Upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.'"

The town experienced another Roman Catholic controversy eight years ago. Alex Walker, 41, an assistant parish priest at the same church, resigned from the priesthood after falling in love with a former parishioner who is now his wife.

Mrs Mitchell, who realised last week that it was Mr Wright living next door, regretted the couple's secretive flit but remained good-natured about the comings and goings in Mount View.

She was asked by one reporter if she had seen any washing — perhaps a cassock — hanging on her neighbours' line. She said that she hoped the couple would come back. "They were very nice neighbours, as quiet as church mice."

Bishop keeps title

Continued from page 1

Bishop Wright a "consummate liar".

Last night Church leaders in Scotland defended their decision to keep quiet about the bishop's 15-year-old son — living with his mother in Polegate, East Sussex — saying the runaway seemed to be "at the end of his tether" and they feared "because of the pressure he was under he might take the final way out".

Cardinal Winning and Archbishop Keith O'Brien learnt of the boy nine days ago when they met Bishop Wright to discuss his resignation.

Earlier yesterday, Father Sean MacAulay, addressing about 60 people at Mass in St Columba's Cathedral, Oban — the cathedral he abandoned — likened Mr Wright to Judas.

"Like Christ was betrayed by someone in his group for 30 pieces of silver, perhaps we feel similarly betrayed at this moment in time," he said.

Catholic Church leaders worldwide are dismayed by the far-reaching damage to

the Church. But it seems they are powerless to prevent Bishop Wright being given a titular bishopric.

Mgr Kieran Conry, director of the Catholic Media Office in London, said: "Once ordained a bishop you remain a bishop for life, but you cannot be bishop of nowhere. So the church gives someone in this position a nominal title of a diocese which no longer exists."

If Bishop Wright married he would be suspended automatically from his office as priest, but that could be reversed if he repented. If he persisted, the church could take steps to have him barred from the clerical state. Even then he would retain his titular bishopric.

Excommunication is extremely rare and solely to do with matters of doctrine and faith. The last, in France in 1988, involved the ultra-traditionalist Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre. His crime was to ordain his own priests and bishops.

Village priest leads congregation in prayer for betrayed son and mother

BY LIN JENKINS

THE congregation of a tiny Roman Catholic church in an East Sussex village bowed their heads in prayer yesterday for the 15-year-old son of Roderick Wright.

While Kevin Whibley and his mother, Joanna, spent the day in their end-of-terrace council house in Polegate, the local priest denounced the former bishop for both his betrayal and desertion.

Father Dermot Keaveney, addressing parishioners at St George's Church, Polegate, asked them to pray for Miss Whibley and her illegitimate son. He spoke of the shock and sorrow at Kevin having been denied his father, and sadness at Miss Whibley's suffering after broken promises that they would at last all live together.

They have been betrayed, the various families have been betrayed, the people of Argyll and the Isles were betrayed,



Kevin: angered by payment for story

the Church was betrayed — bishops, priests and people. The church has been hurt and bruised," he said.

Miss Whibley, 48, a part-time social worker in Halesham who has never married, was astonished that Mr Wright should tell of his forbidden love through a newspaper. Having restricted her own remarks to the BBC

and having declined offers of money from newspapers to tell her story, she at first refused to believe it.

However, she read his account in the *News of the World* which showed that while he was pledging to leave the church and end the 15-year-old lie of denying his own son and join them in Polegate, he was also planning a new life with Kathleen MacPhee.

Mr Wright told the newspaper that their relationship was platonic but said he hoped to marry. He said: "There has been no sexual relationship between us, Kathleen insisted on that. We have never made love to each other. We have not even shared the same bed or slept together."

He said that he had realised when he accepted the post as bishop that because of Kevin he should never have agreed to accept the position. "I wanted to say I shouldn't do it but I didn't go through with the calls. I knew I shouldn't be

bishop because I was the father of Kevin."

It was Kevin who first suggested to his mother that Mr Wright was not going to honour his promise to join them by last Friday.

In long telephone conversations he had discussed his plans to leave the Church and say his goodbyes but never mentioned his relationship with Mrs MacPhee. Kevin and his mother did not believe it when they first heard suggestions that they had run away together but were forced to accept it after the Church in Scotland announced the bishop's resignation.

Kevin is angry that his father was said to have received thousands of pounds for his story and plans to give it to Mrs MacPhee's children. "If he is going to profit out of this story, our story, I'm very angry about it. If he offers to make payment to us he will not hear the end of it. It is my money," he said.

Statement urged over harassment

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE Chief Constable of North Yorkshire was last night under pressure to issue a statement justifying a possible £1 million compensation package made to a Harrogate policewoman to end a sexual harassment scandal.

Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor who is contesting the Conservative seat at Harrogate, said he had raised the matter with the Home Secretary and that the force had to be made accountable. "I think that unless there is a clear public statement this could do serious and lasting damage to the reputation of the force."

Confidential medical records disclosed yesterday show that DC Libby Ashurst, 27, had been diagnosed as suffering from a depressive illness consistent with post-traumatic stress disorder due to prolonged and excessive harassment at work.

Japanese invader poised for day of the trifids

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

AN alien invader that can demolish concrete and strangle native flora is threatening a new onslaught on the British countryside.

Experts who said that the destructive and feared Japanese knotweed would never breed in this country have turned out to be wrong. And the new hybrids are — to the despair of gardeners across the land — likely to be even tougher and more damaging than the parents.

The plant, an alien introduced here as an ornamental last century from the Far East, was believed to be infertile in Britain because it came from a single, female, clone.

However, it has survived by growing from tiny fragments of shoot or root. And now it is breeding and spreading.

Japanese knotweed, *Fallopia japonica*, which in



Japanese knotweed is almost indestructible

its native countries thrives on the tough environments of fresh lava flows, has proved almost indestructible. Its infamous feats include bringing down concrete walls, cracking open paving and strangling native flowers along river banks. A cross between it and Russian vine, another introduced species and a formidable climber, has been pinpointed in the London Borough of Haringey.

In London and Surrey it has

mated with the Giant knotweed, another alien import from the Far East.

And in some places, such as around Cirencester, Gloucestershire, the hybrids are now also "back-breeding" to create more bewildering strains with as yet unknown consequences.

Experts fear attempts to try to control knotweed by finding a single natural pest may now be at risk as the plant adopts increasingly chameleon varieties.

But its deadly impact may be nothing compared to what it is to come. Dr John Bailey, a botanist at the University of Leicester believes at least one of the hybrids may be even more barbarous than the parent.

A spokesman for the Environment Agency, which is spending thousands of pounds trying to find an antidote to knotweed, last night promised to focus efforts on the emerging hybrids.

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BE ACTIVE WITH OCTOBER VOGUE

Drinking alcohol 'is widespread by the age of ten'

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

CHILDREN as young as ten are becoming regular drinkers of alcohol, often with their parents' consent, one of the biggest and most established studies of children's health shows today.

A quarter of boys and one girl in seven aged between 10 and 11 told researchers they had drunk some alcohol in the week of the survey by the Schools Health Education Unit at Exeter University. By the age of 14, the majority of both sexes were drinkers.

John Balding, the unit's director, said that the growing use of alcohol was among the most serious threats to young people's health, far outweighing the use of drugs. He said drinks such as alcoholic lemonade were making the position worse.

The survey, which has been carried out for 20 years and now involves almost 24,000 pupils, previously covered only secondary school pupils in its published form. But Mr Balding said high levels of drinking in the early teens had

suggested an even younger introduction to alcohol.

Most of the ten-year-olds who admitted drinking in the week of the test said they had done so on only one day, but a small proportion were indulging daily. More than a third of 12 and 13-year-olds were drinking, with the figure reaching 60 per cent two years later.

The home was the most common source of alcohol and the majority of teenagers said their parents knew that they were drinking there. Others were drinking at friends' homes, parties or discos, but few cited pubs. Mr Balding said: "It is difficult to say whether the use of alcohol by youngsters is rising by much, but it certainly is not falling."

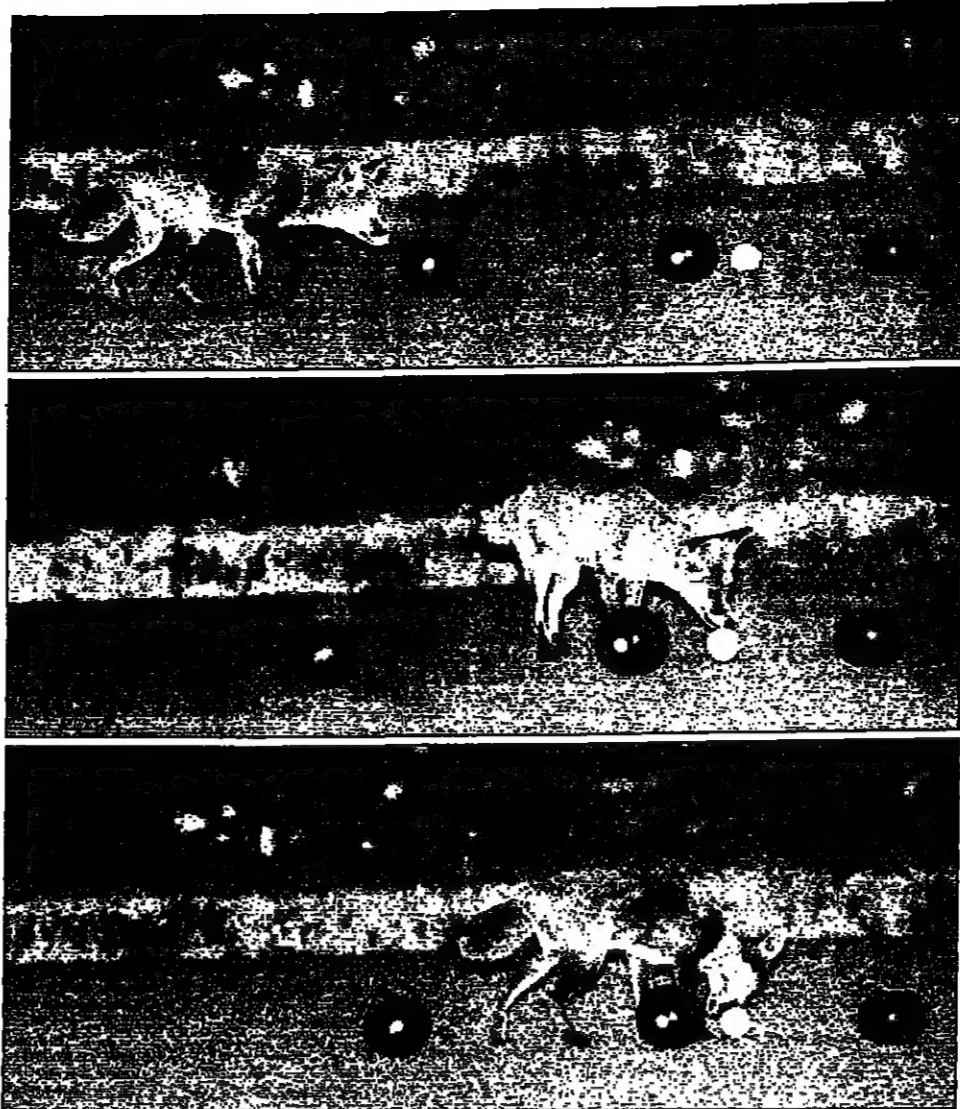
The survey was carried out last year before alcoholic lemonade drinks were widely available. Beer or lager was the favourite choice of teenage boys, with girls preferring wine or cider. The older age groups in particular said they usually drank to get drunk,

rather than for social reasons or because of peer pressure.

Few of the younger age groups had any experience of illegal drugs, although by the age of 14 or 15 almost a third of boys and a quarter of girls had experimented. Cannabis was by far the most common drug used.

Mr Balding said the survey generally gave a positive picture of young people's health-related behaviour. Hygiene, for example, had improved considerably over the years. "My view of young people is very optimistic: they care passionately about their environment, about each other and, believe it or not, about what adults think of them," he said. "They are also prepared to take risks, which is a sign of health."

However, half of those surveyed had spent at least two hours watching television the previous evening, and more than a third had done no homework. One girl in five considered herself unfit by the age of 14.



One of the Cheltenham foxes adding to the family collection of bowling jacks

Champion bowler caught out by ball tampering

By DAVID RHYS JONES

A FOX trots across the bowling green, sniffs the jack — and makes off with it. And it's not the first time. Four of the small yellow balls used as markers have been appropriated at the Suffolk Square club in Cheltenham.

Visitors who turned up to watch the club's leading player, Tony Allcock, the world outdoor singles champion, were surprised to see the great man sharing the limelight with the foxes. One stopped Mr Allcock in a mid-bowl during the Gloucestershire triples final.

"We were in the middle of our game on rink four when a fox darted onto the green, picked up the jack on rink six and made off with it," Mr Allcock said yesterday. "I believe they live across the square, in the foundations of one of the Georgian houses, and are regular visitors."

Tom Barker, 14, the club's youngest member, who was practising on the end rink during the county final, said: "I put up a jack and bowled two woods at it, then stopped for a moment to watch what was happening in the final. When I turned back, there was a fox on the rink and it picked up the jack and ambled off, cool as a cucumber."

Chasing down the rink after the fox in an unsuccessful attempt to retrieve the jack, Tom was reprimanded by the club captain for running on the green. "On a previous occasion I saw a fox on the green, and rolled a jack at it, hoping to frighten it away," Tom said. "Instead of being scared, the fox obviously thought it was a game, picked the jack up in its mouth and ran away with it."

The foxes can be seen regularly at the club, especially early in the morning and at dusk, but they have been known to turn up in the afternoons, when they sit on the bank and watch the games. Bob Mackie, the club president, said the foxes seemed to enjoy watching the woods roll up the green. "Their heads turn as they travel towards the jack and I'll swear that, if it's a poor delivery, they will turn back and give the bowler a look of disapproval. They are extremely tame."

He said the animals had divided the club. "Half our members think they are cute, but the other half would like to get rid of them, and have come up with all sorts of ideas, most of them illegal."

Claudio Sillero, of the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit at Oxford, said: "Foxes are attracted to things they can roll and play with. They have probably built up a cache of jacks in their den."

Scientists examine hate mail

Threatening letters seized by police are being examined by researchers hoping to discover if the language used in the letters will show whether the threat will be carried out. Scientists have already examined 100 letters passed on by police from cases involving vicious personal threats, extortion or terrorist threats. The letters are being compared against simulated letters written by volunteers.

The work, which can also tell police about the writer's personality, is being done by researchers linked to the department of psychology at Liverpool University.

Car blaze death

Police officers could only watch helplessly as a man burnt to death after his car was engulfed by fire outside St Helens police station on Merseyside early yesterday. The 37-year-old had been reported missing by his parents the previous day.

Number culled

The owner of an abattoir in Stockton-on-Tees, Co Durham, has removed the number plate P6 BSE from his new £50,000 Mercedes after protests from farmers. Michael Broad said that it was a family joke which had backfired.

Student stress up

Psychological disturbance among students has increased in 64 per cent of universities, according to the Association for Student Counselling. Student suicides are also said to be rising. A stress survival guide has been launched for first-year students.

Snorkeller dies

A Briton died after getting into difficulties while snorkelling off a Malaysian island, Richard Caudwell, 53, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, who was married with three children, was swimming off Tioman Island while on a two-month holiday.

Circus stampede

A man was injured as 50 people fled from a circus in Greater Manchester, fearing that an elephant was about to trample them. The panic was halted by the ringmaster who pleaded with the audience to return. The circus manager said there was no real danger.

Two go into one

Golfing partners Steve Read, 37, and Tony Goodridge, 49, thought they had both lost their balls after teeing off at the par-three, 160-yard twelfth hole during a contest at Milford Haven Golf Club, west Wales, to find both balls nestling in the cup.

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هكذا من الأصل

Rantzen denounces colleague to BBC chiefs

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

ESTHER RANTZEN has told BBC executives that her career has been jeopardised by a Panorama journalist who wrote a newspaper article criticising her methods.

Ms Rantzen has sent a ten-page confidential memorandum to John Birt, the Director-General, and others accusing John Ware of breaking his contract by attacking her in print. She says that the award-winning investigative reporter had an "undeclared interest" in the British Home and Hospital for Incurables (BHHI). The Rantzen Report placed hidden cameras at the hospital in Sutherland, south-west London, and alleged that a 28-year-old brain-damaged patient was being neglected.

Ms Rantzen says that Mr Ware failed to mention in his 3,000-word article in The Sunday Telegraph that he is a friend of the daughter of the hospital's volunteer co-ordinator. Although an inquiry into the dispute is continuing at the BBC, sources have told The Times that Mr Ware's explanation on this point has been accepted.

Ms Rantzen says that she would have asked the BBC to pay for a libel action but cannot expect it to take one of its own employees to court.

She writes in the memorandum: "I have been informed by four people, all with links to the BHHI, and by two senior BBC employees that John

Ware has an undeclared interest - his friendship with TV reporter Wendy Robbins, whose mother works for the BHHI as their volunteer co-ordinator."

The only interest Mr Ware mentioned was his friendship with another patient. He wrote: "I was also sceptical of Esther's allegation because the Home for Incurables has been a wonderful home to ... Ian Smith, a former BBC Panorama colleague of mine."

Ms Rantzen says that Mr Smith's girlfriend, Jan Chola, rang The Rantzen Report after the article to say that Mr Ware had visited Mr Smith only once at the hospital. If he had contacted her or Mr Smith's mother before writing the article, he would have been told they were deeply concerned about his care there.

Mr Ware, who exposed Gerry Adams's direct involvement in bomb-planting and Lady Porter's attempts to rig Westminster Council elections, accused Ms Rantzen of "misleading and fundamentally untrue" claims about the hospital. Ms Rantzen complains that Mr Ware gave her no right of reply before publication, she lists 11 inaccuracies in his article and makes 12 detailed defences of her programme.

BBC sources said that Miss Robbins and her mother were on holiday between the broadcast of The Rantzen Report and the writing of Mr Ware's article. However, a senior figure at BBC News indicated that such an article should have been cleared before publication.

Ms Rantzen complains in her memorandum: "My past and future career with the BBC are clearly at stake." She continues in bold type: "John Ware and The Sunday Telegraph relied upon his reputation and authority as a BBC reporter working for Panorama and Rough Justice to attack me," and adds: "Thus Mr Ware has put my whole television career in jeopardy."



Rantzen told Birt she fears for her career

Man caught digging for pilot's body

By A STAFF REPORTER

AN AVIATION enthusiast convicted two years ago of illegally recovering the body of a wartime fighter pilot is facing police investigation after being caught digging for the remains of a Polish airman from the Battle of Britain.

Mark Kirby was discovered with a mechanical excavator at the place where Stanislaw Duszynski, 24, crashed on September 11, 1940. The police, called to a farm near Lydd, in Kent, took away a bag filled with pieces of Duszynski's Hurricane.

Although traces of the pilot's blue uniform were found, Mr Kirby did not manage to unearth the body. A spokesman for Kent Constabulary said that proceedings under the Protection of Military Remains Act were being considered. A Ministry of Defence licence is needed to dig at wartime crash sites, but no licences are issued where sites contain human remains.

Mr Kirby, of Tonbridge, Kent, said that before the dig he contacted Duszynski's closest living relative, who expressed enthusiasm. "Had I found any remains I would have informed the police and then this pilot could have had a decent burial. I did not have a licence and I did not apply for one because they would never have issued it."

Dismissed MI6 officer to fight on

By MICHAEL EVANS

A FORMER MI6 officer who claims that he was unfairly dismissed from the Secret Intelligence Service is considering further legal action after the Foreign Office won a High Court injunction to prevent him from talking about past operations.

The injunction was granted last Friday by Mr Justice Newman, apparently after the Foreign Office considered that there was a risk that the unnamed MI6 officer, identified only as Mr T, might reveal operational secrets to the media.

John Wadham, the man's lawyer and also director of the civil rights organisation Liberty, will return to the High Court on Friday for a second hearing on the Foreign Office injunction. Yesterday Mr Wadham said that he had not yet decided whether to fight the injunction.

Mr T is understood to be abroad. He was dismissed from MI6 last year after doubts over his judgment and his ability to work as a good team player. There was allegedly a personality clash with his senior line manager.

Mr Wadham is to take the case to the Employment Appeals Tribunal. If that fails, he will pursue the matter to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

WI jam-makers find a champion in Heseltine

THE stalwarts of the Women's Institute who bake cakes and bottle jams for charitable causes have caught the eye of the Government's deregulation taskforce (Valerie Elliott writes). They appear likely to be exempted from regulations that require them to register their kitchens with local authorities.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, who is leading the blitz on officialdom, is expected to champion a relaxation in the law that

requires women's institute food to be registered on a special basis to register their kitchen. The Department of Health has recently completed a consultation on the issue, over which the WI have been lobbying hard. The change is recommended by the deregulation taskforce, headed by Francis Maude, in its annual report to be published today.

Penny Anand, on behalf of WI Markets, said last night: "Each WI market has to give the names and addresses of every member who provides home-made produce for sale. With 54,000 members it is a

Irish writer says republican hero's heart was in the wrong country

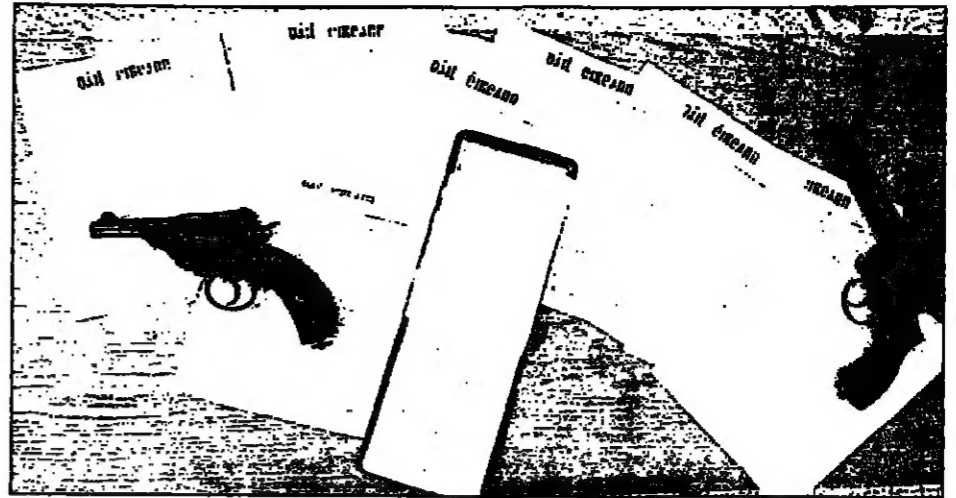
By NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND
CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING Irish writer who wasted ten years working on a screenplay about Michael Collins has attacked a rival film about the IRA leader for failing to mention his affair with an Englishwoman.

Eoghan Harris believes that Neil Jordan's film could have helped to fight sectarian nationalism if it had made Irish people confront the reality that one of their first leaders loved Lady Lavery, the London society hostess and wife of the painter Sir John Lavery.

Mr Harris, who admitted that he felt bitter after his script for Kevin Costner disappeared without trace when Mr Jordan made his £19 million film, said his rival had missed out key historical events and distorted others.

Mr Jordan's supporters dismiss Mr Harris's criticisms because they say he is vehemently anti-republican and because he has yet to see the film. However, Mr Harris, who has read the script, is supported in some of his criticisms by a former Irish prime minister. Mr Harris's



Revolvers, letters and a diary belonging to the IRA leader on show in Dublin

strongest charge is that the new film, which starts Liam Neeson in the title role, glosses over Collins's passionate relationship with Lady Lavery. Collins and Lavery started an affair in London in 1921 when he was a member of the Sinn Féin delegation at the Anglo-Irish negotiations with the Lloyd George Government which led to partition of Ireland. Their affair became so intense that she had to be dissuaded from

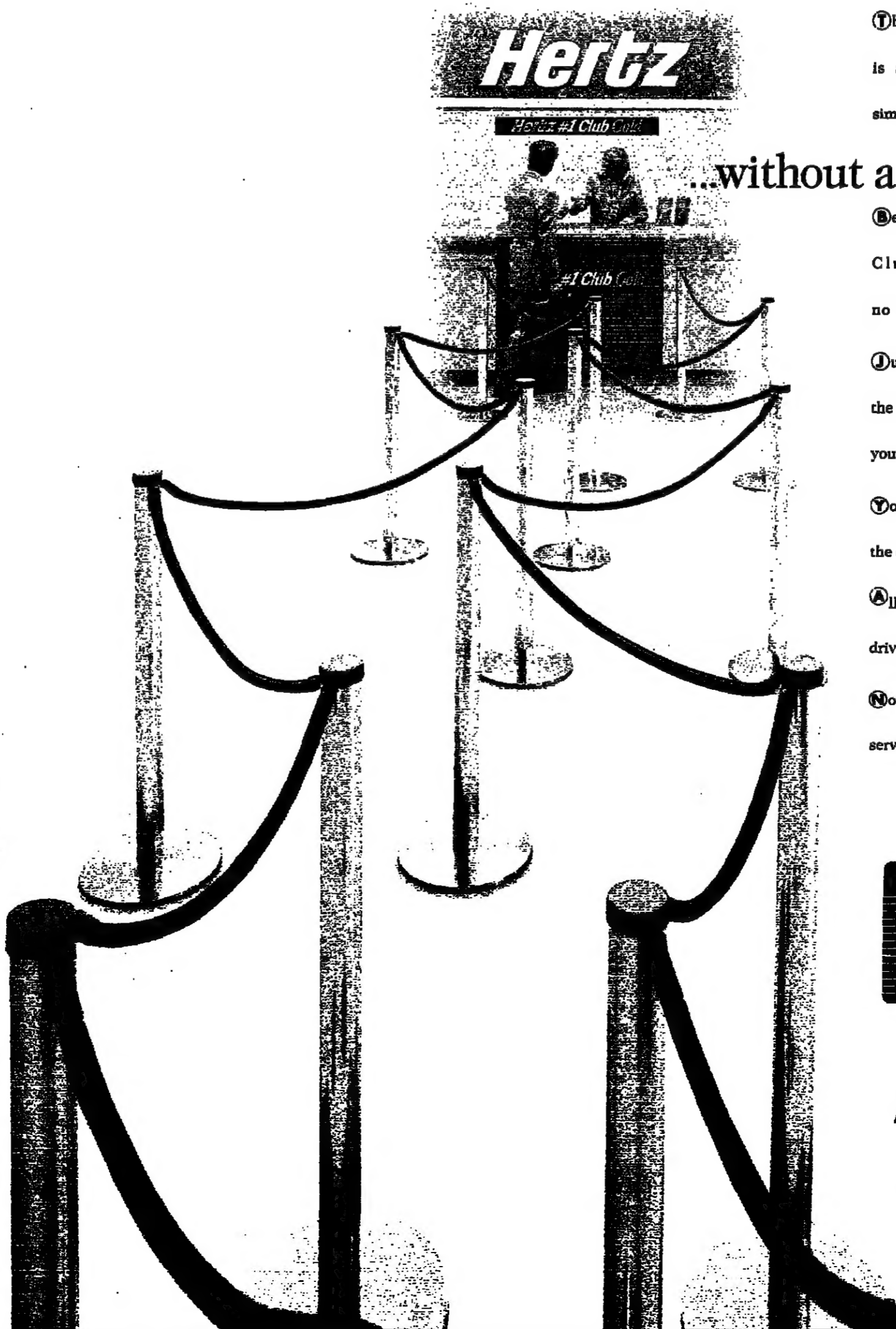
wearing widow's weeds when Collins was shot dead by republican opponents in Co Cork in August 1922.

Mr Jordan's film concentrates instead on Collins's relationship with Kitty Kiernan, played by Julia Roberts, his fiancée who remained in Ireland during the treaty negotiations. Mr Harris said: "Wouldn't a movie be less likely to produce narrow nationalists by telling us that it was Hazel's letters

and not Kitty's letters that were found on his body?"

Garret Fitzgerald, the former Irish prime minister, shares some of Mr Harris's criticisms of the omissions in the film, including a failure to show the 1918 general election, but believes that as a whole it is "a triumph" and a "deeply moving experience". Mr Jordan has strongly defended his film, Michael Collins, against charges that it glorifies terrorism.

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Health managers ban general surgeons from breast operations

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A HEALTH authority has banned surgeons who fail to follow its guidelines on breast cancer from treating patients with the illness.

In what is believed to be the first move of its kind, Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster Health Authority has said it will not pay for breast cancer patients treated at St Mary's Hospital in west London by any surgeon who fails to follow the protocol set out in its contract. This says that

breast cancer surgery should be carried out by specialist surgeons providing particular treatments and that patients should be seen in a "one-stop" clinic so they do not have to wait for results. A check carried out last year showed that the protocol was not being followed in every case, so the health authority tightened the contract from last April.

Keith Ford, director of commissioning, said: "We have said we would not wish our

Hospitals accused of exaggerating expertise to win patients

Women 'misled' on cancer care

How The Times reported last week's cancer care survey

patients to be treated by anyone who is not prepared to work to the breast cancer protocols. My job is to ensure the contracts reinforce good practice."

Although the protocol is in

line with guidance issued by the Health Department, some surgeons say that health managers are now interfering too far in clinical care. Geoffrey Glazer, a general surgeon at St Mary's, who sees breast can-

cer patients privately but no longer treats new ones on the NHS, said: "I don't totally disagree with the trend to concentrate the work of breast surgeons. What I think is inappropriate is having a health authority telling you that you can do this or you can't do that. They are trying to dictate in all sorts of areas."

The drive to improve breast cancer care, which claims 13,000 lives a year in Britain, was launched by the Government last year with the publication of a national policy

aimed at giving every patient access to the highest standard of care. Studies in England and Scotland have shown that treatment in a specialist unit can improve women's survival chances by up to 9 per cent five years after diagnosis and 7 per cent after ten years.

However, a survey of the 220 hospitals providing specialist treatment for breast cancer, published last week by the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, found that one in four surgeons who do the work do not see enough cases to gain

the necessary expertise. Richard Sainsbury, consultant surgeon at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary and a member of the steering group that conducted the survey, said the contract drawn up by Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster was a sign that managers were determined to raise standards. "Contracts will tend to be used where purchasers can't get agreement. There is a problem for some surgeons who have done the work all their lives."

Margaret Ghilchik, director

of the breast unit at St Mary's, said that the general surgeons at the hospital now referred breast patients to her and to her fellow specialist, Allan Spigelman. "They realise we do it better," she said. "The gung ho attitude of the past, when you had surgeons saying 'That's a juicy one, I'll have a go,' has gone."

A spokesman for St Mary's said: "There is no surgeon here who does not meet the protocols laid down by Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster."

Woman challenges hospital's right to impose Caesarean

By JOANNA BALE

A WOMAN is to take pioneering legal action after being forced by a hospital's court order to have a Caesarean section against her wishes.

The woman, who has not been named, intends to test the legality of the ruling in an attempt to seek compensation and prevent other women going through the same ordeal. In a separate action, the Association for Improvement in Maternity Services (Aims) is planning to mount a similar challenge.

Both are being represented by Barbara Hewson, a barrister who offered to give free legal advice and representation when it emerged last week that a High Court judge had authorised doctors to carry out Caesareans against the mother's will in two other cases. The rulings were criticised by medical and legal bodies after they appeared to give courts much wider powers to impose surgery without a patient's consent. The patients in both cases were unrepresented in court.

Beverly Beech of Aims said: "We are horrified at the way in which women have

been denied their legal rights and forced into accepting this treatment despite vigorous protests. This will merely encourage more women to avoid antenatal care—some already do this in order to ensure a home birth."

Court powers to sanction surgery have traditionally been limited to cases where the patient is mentally ill or unconscious. Last week it was thought that Mr Justice Johnson was breaking new ground after overruling two women who did not want Caesareans when doctors said they were at risk of rupturing their wombs, putting their lives and that of their babies in danger.

Now that a further case has emerged, lawyers believe many more women have undergone forced Caesareans after secret emergency court rulings in which the patients were unrepresented. A legal source said: "We now know of five family division judges who have done this and there may be many more."

It is unclear on what grounds the rulings will be challenged. The source added: "There is a theory that these

orders are worthless because the women are never represented in court. They are often done in a very sneaky way and presented as a fait accompli to the woman while she is in labour. The other option is that the woman can assert that she was wrongly imprisoned."

In one of the cases to emerge last week, Rochdale Healthcare Trust applied for a court order after a woman refused a Caesarean because she had suffered painful after-effects from such an operation before. She had said: "I would rather die than have a Caesarean again." The judge said: "I concluded that a patient who could speak in terms which seemed to accept the inevitability of her own death was not a patient who was able properly to weigh up the considerations."

The second case involved a woman in labour after a car accident. The judge ruled that "reasonable force" was permitted in authorising surgery because she was incapable of weighing up the considerations involved. A psychiatrist said she was not suffering a mental disorder.



Margaret Harper with a picture of her daughter, Sharon Tabarn, who died after being hypnotised on stage

Call for curbs on stage hypnotists

By ADAM FRESKO

A SOLICITOR representing families who claim to be victims of stage hypnotists has predicted further fatalities unless restrictions are introduced.

Martin Smith has lodged an application for a fresh inquiry after a verdict of death by natural causes on a woman who died only hours after being hypnotised to believe

that she was receiving a 10,000-volt electric shock. A pathologist said that the victim, Sharon Tabarn, 24, a mother of two, died of a fit.

Mr Smith said: "I have seen first-hand the damage hypnosis can cause. I have lodged an application with the Attorney-General to order a fresh inquiry on Sharon Tabarn, who had no history of epilepsy. My fear is that if something is not done, there could be further deaths."

He is representing Mrs Tabarn's mother, Margaret Harper, from Preston, Lancashire, who said the hypnotist did not know that her daughter had a phobia of electricity. Mrs Harper, a founder of the Campaign Against Stage

Hypnosis, said: "I believe that telling her she would be getting 10,000 volts of electricity was the worst thing he could do. I feel it triggered something inside her that frightened her and caused her death."

Mr Smith is also representing Lynne Howarth, 36, who is suing the hypnotist Philip Green for causing psychiatric damage and leading her to attempt suicide twice.

Mrs Howarth, a mother of seven from Bolton, Greater Manchester, was also told by Mr Green, whose stage name is Philip Dawson, to pretend that she would be brought out of her trance by a 10,000-volt shock. Friends at the show said that she looked bewil-

dered when she came to and her husband was so worried that he asked the hypnotist to try again to bring her out of the trance. In documents lodged last week at Blackburn County Court, she is claiming damages for mental suffering and loss of earnings after her husband took six months off work to look after her.

Mrs Howarth, who finally recovered from the incident in 1994 with help from a hypnotherapist, said: "For six months I didn't even go out of the house and tried to commit suicide on a couple of occasions. I became very abusive towards my children. I just wasn't myself. It makes me very angry that these people can get away with this."

Smartest patients 'get the best care'

By JEREMY LAURANCE

THE way patients dress affects the way they are treated and could even determine their chances of survival, a doctor has claimed.

Middle-class patients benefit most from the NHS, with longer consultations, more health education and quicker referrals to specialists, according to Dr Phil Hammond, of Bristol University. Donning smart clothes is the quickest route to first-class treatment.

"The most extreme example is the observation that hospital staff try harder for longer to resuscitate you if you have your cardiac arrest while wearing a suit rather than split jeans," he said. "If you look like a potential litigant, or a friend of the consultant, you get the works." But Dr Hammond, a lecturer in general practice, said that he had no hard evidence to support his view, which was based on anecdotal observation.

The British Medical Association dismissed the claim that smart clothes would guarantee quicker attention, but conceded that appearance could affect treatment. Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the BMA council, said: "My experience of casualty is that patients are seen strictly in order of arrival unless there are clear reasons why they should be treated more urgently. But doctors are human. No doubt the way people are handled depends on the way they present themselves."

Leading article, page 21

23rd September 1996



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Three celebrations of British skill

WHILE industrialists and politicians were being entertained at the City of London's Mansion House last week, a young Arab pilot who had been flown to the capital from the Gulf in a moribund state was enjoying his first night out after being discharged from Cromwell Hospital.

The next afternoon Willie Carson was sent flying by a kick in the upper abdomen at Newbury. The pilot, Carson, the Lord Mayor of London and his guests celebrating the 21st anniversary of the Liver Research Trust now all have one interest in common: the care of the liver and the determination that Britain does not lose its pre-eminent role in international liver research.

The pilot's liver problem began when he left his cockpit for compulsory infantry training



in the desert, where he developed severe heatstroke. The 18-year-old trainee's sweating diminished, his temperature rose alarmingly, convulsions began and he lapsed into unconsciousness.

His heart, burdened beyond its capacity, failed to maintain an adequate circulation to the liver and kidneys. As the kidneys gave up, they stopped passing urine and he developed serious jaundice from liver failure. Close to death, he was flown to London for dialysis and treatment under Professor Roger Williams.

consultant to the research trust and to King's College and Cromwell hospitals. British expertise triumphed and on Thursday, after three weeks in hospital, he was discharged to outpatient care.

While the pilot's problems are medical, Carson's are surgical. A normal-sized liver is protected by the ribs and in many jockeys' cases by body armour. Even so, the kick of a two-year-old thoroughbred filly's back leg was enough to cause bleeding in a friable and vascular organ.

Liver surgery, like liver

medicine, is highly developed in Britain and Carson can be certain that, even if he needs surgery, he will, barring unexpected complications, be riding next season. Healthy livers regenerate and even a jockey who loses up to two thirds of one should manage the Derby next year and half a bottle of wine afterwards to celebrate.

The Mansion House reception celebrated not only 21 years of the trust but also the foundation of the Institute of Hepatology which is being built at University College London. Under Professor Williams it will investigate viral hepatitis, gene therapy in liver disease and bio-artificial liver support devices.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

The Queen sends Carson best wishes for recovery

THE Queen has sent a get-well message to Willie Carson, the injured jockey. Her best wishes were delivered in a telephone message from Sir Robert Fellowes, her Private Secretary, to staff at North Hampshire Hospital in Basingstoke.

Yesterday Carson, 53, was said to be "out of immediate

danger", but remained in intensive care. His liver was damaged by a kick from the horse he was about to mount at Newbury on Friday. The need for surgery has not been ruled out.

Carson has ridden many winners for the Queen, notably Dunfermline, which won the 1977 Oaks and St Leger.

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Multimillion-pound collection of medieval treasures faces dispersal

'Fantastic' sale takes art world by surprise

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the world's richest private collections of medieval enamels is for sale and is likely to be dispersed because few public institutions could ever hope to raise the multimillion-pound asking price.

Curators can only dream of acquiring the caskets, crosses and candlesticks included among nearly 200 treasures dating back to the 12th century. They have been amassed since the Second World War and are being sold by a Hungarian collector who lives in Britain.

The sheer scale of the Keir collection — one of only two or three comparable private holdings worldwide — overshadows the importance of the Thomas à Becket casket, which dates from the same period as many of the collection's pieces and fetched £4.18 million at auction in July. Any estimates for the entire collection would greatly exceed this figure. One scholar said: "This is going to cost megabucks. It's a fantastic collection."

Many of the enamelled masterpieces in the collection bear the same dazzling Limoges craftsmanship as the Becket casket, which is now owned by the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Although there is some confusion over which pieces are for sale, or whether any of them have been sold individually, the collection includes a cross described by the British Museum as outstanding among late 12th-century crosses: a Virgin and Child whose softly modelled tunic dates it to the 1220s; and a casket depicting Christ and the Apostles, which was made about 1190. The craftsmanship is as delicate as the enamelling and gilding are radiant.

The Keir Collection boasts treasures dating from the 12th to 16th centuries from abbeys

and churches throughout Europe. It was on loan from 1981 to 1982 to the British Museum, whose curator, Neil Stratford, described its quality as remarkable. The collection was loaned in 1982 to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Missouri, where it remained until a few months ago.

It was assembled in the 1950s and 1960s by Ernst and Martha Kofler-Truniger, of Lucerne, Switzerland; they had at one time also owned the Becket casket. In 1971 Edmund de Unger, a Hungarian believed to be in his early seventies and who has lived in Britain for decades, acquired the Kofler-Truniger holdings and continued adding pieces to them.

He built up a collection which Marc Wilson, director of the Nelson-Atkins Museum, described as "a monument to a collector's taste and acumen". Mr de Unger, who is married with children, has been described as a very private and cultured man who is immensely proud of his collection.

But his eye extends to other areas: he has a built a museum-quality collection of Islamic art on which, it is thought, he intends to concentrate his interests. One source said that the medieval collection was owned by a foundation in Zurich, where the pieces are stored at present.

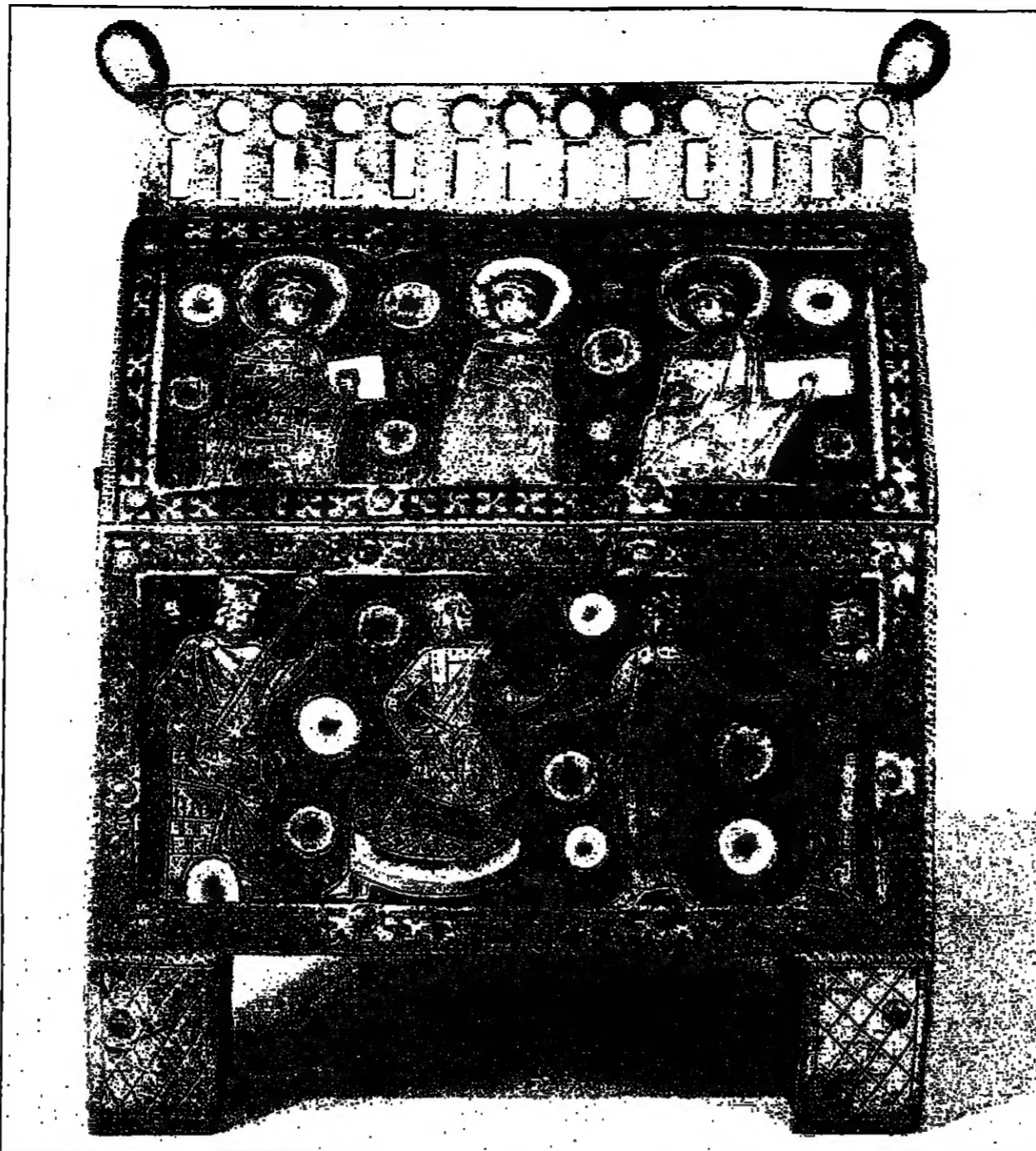
As Marilyn Stokstad, consultant to the Nelson-Atkins Museum, explained in her catalogue, "the deceptively simple description of enamel — the fusing of coloured glass to a metal plate — belies the skill required of artists who created masterworks in such a delicate yet recalcitrant medium".

Many of the pieces were made with the *champlevé* technique, particularly favoured in the 12th and early 13th centuries by artists in southwestern France and northern Spain. This involved the artist gouging and chiselling his design into the bronze or copper plate and filling the spaces with enamel.

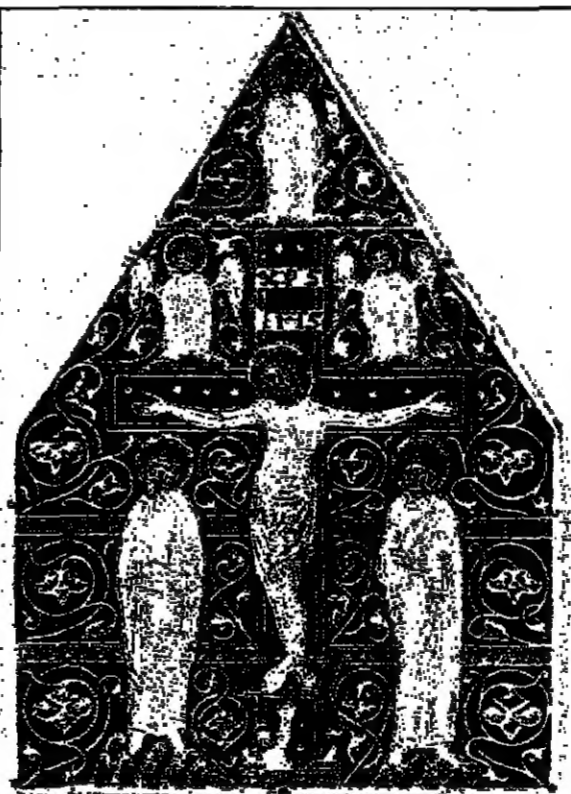
A handbook from the 12th century suggested that the craftsman polish the piece with spit and powdered potters until the enamel was so bright that "if part of it were wet, one could not tell wet from dry".



The Thomas Becket casket cost £4 million



Treasures from the Keir collection: a casket dating from 1200-1210, above, depicts the martyrdom of St Stephen. A gable-shaped plaque with two martyred saints from the same period, below left, and casket from about 1185



Sunrise lifts the spirits of our man at the Pole

The most distant reader of *The Times* on the Internet is Simon Hart, a British physicist working at the South Pole. Here he describes life in a six-month winter

FOR most *Times* readers the end of summer is no cause for celebration. But for those of us stranded at the most southerly spot on Earth, Thursday was a day we had looked forward to. It was when our long, dark winter ended and we saw the sun for the first time in six months.

As the clouds cleared we could see the top of the sun peeking over the horizon. Although it was late at night, most of the personnel at the Amundsen-Scott Base gathered to witness the event. It was a surprisingly quiet affair, most people just standing around displaying big grins, basking in the first rays of light at the end of what had been a very long, dark tunnel. When you are restricted to one sunrise a year it is a moment to savour and, despite the cold, I stood watching for almost an hour as the snow surface turned a wonderful shade of lilac.

This quiet contemplation did not last long and on Saturday we celebrated with a wild party. Everyone sang along to the Beatles' *Here Comes The Sun* while drinking tequila sunrises.

Life here is one of extremes. During our summer the sun never sets and the glare of sunlight off the snow can be blinding. Towards midsummer the temperature soars to a balmy 0 Fahrenheit. Military transport planes bring us food and fuel almost daily and the station population swells to near 150; life is hectic and crowded. The station is under a 50-metre-wide aluminium dome, but most people sleep outside in long black tents. Our only water supply is from melted ice, and fuel is limited, so we make do with two two-minute showers a week.

As winter approaches, the sun gradually sinks lower and the temperature drops to the point where flying becomes too risky. The last plane left on February 22. Since then we have had no mail and the last of our fresh fruit ran out months ago. We celebrate the end of each month with a formal dinner and, despite the reliance on frozen food, our cook has prepared some excellent dishes. A hydroponic greenhouse produces enough for a small salad each week, and we have even managed to create some authentic-tasting sushi. With the sun

gone, the night sky during clear periods is astonishing. The Milky Way and the Southern Lights are visible in their full glory.

But it can also become very dark and dangerous. I once lost my way outside and had to radio for help. It was -70F and, while trying to retrace my steps, which were becoming obscured by blowing snow, I suddenly became very cold. I was rescued by colleagues waving torches to guide me back. I realised I had been heading in completely the wrong direction.

We find strange ways to pass the time in winter. When the weather first dropped below -100F, we climbed into the sauna, waited for it to heat up to 200F, then stripped naked and raced outside to the South Pole marker. It is a station tradition, and those who do it are enrolled into the exclusive 300 Club.

As one of only two Britons on the station, I would miss news of home were it not for the excellent *Times* Internet edition. It is particularly exciting to read the football results only hours after the games have been played. What a difference from a very few years ago, when the only communication with the outside world was by infrequent radio link.

Our collective mood follows the angle of the sun. Our low point was midwinter, but our spirits are now brightening with the sky. There are now 345,000 registered readers of *The Times* on the Internet (<http://www.the-times.co.uk>)



Simon Hart beside the South Pole marker

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Deckchairs fight on the beaches

By ROBIN YOUNG

TOURISM chiefs on the English Riviera are considering swapping their 10,000 traditional wood and canvas deckchairs for continental-style loungers in an attempt to attract more overseas sunbathers.

Gordon Oliver, a Torbay councillor, has suggested that the South Devon coast might look a little more convincing if its beach furniture was more on a par with French or Spanish resorts. Torbay has already bought 500 loungers and Mr Oliver believes they will gradually become a more popular sight at the British seaside.

But his idea has provoked fury among traditionalists who want Torbay to remain quintessentially English, with grumpy holidaymakers sitting uncomfortably in sagging deckchairs, sometimes referred to as the physiotherapists' best friend because of their contribution to lower-back problems.

Mr Oliver said: "After I first suggested getting rid of the deckchairs all my friends were trying to find one for me to sit

in as a joke, but when they looked in their garden sheds they all had sun loungers. I think that makes my point."

He said that deckchairs were seen as traditional in Britain and older people possibly preferred them, but he thought most visitors would rather use a lounger. Hundreds of Torbay's deckchairs are now 30 years old. "I think we should start phasing them out in favour of something more modern and conveniently adjustable."

Derek Mills, who manages Torbay's beaches, said that he hoped to give visitors a choice, but accepted that the 500 loungers already in use were proving popular.

Christine Boote, chairman of the Torbay Hotels and Caterers Association, said that she did not object to loungers being introduced to allow visitors greater choice, but objected to deckchairs being put to rest. "I get a little bit browned off with us always trying to be like the real Riviera. What's wrong with being English and a little bit different?"

FOR TUESDAY'S 10p TIMES SEE VOUCHER ON PAGE 10

10p

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DEAR MR TAXMAN

I FEEL LEFT OUT

Dear Taxman I feel neglected, all my friends get tax returns to fill in but you have never sent me one.

As I am now 32 years old is there something wrong with me? Ignored, COVENTRY.

TAXMAN SAYS Age has nothing to do with whether you get a tax return or not. We will send you a tax return if you are self-employed, a company director, or someone with more complex tax affairs. Most people don't get a tax return so you're certainly not alone. However, if you receive income that has not been taxed and you haven't been sent a tax return you must tell us. Call your Tax Office and talk to someone there if you are still worried. The telephone number is in the phone book under 'Inland Revenue'.

DO I NEED AN ACCOUNTANT?

Dear Taxman To date, I have always enjoyed handling my tax affairs personally. I find it a very stimulating and interesting pastime. Will I now be forced to use an accountant and give up one of my few interests in life? Bored, DYFED.

TAXMAN SAYS Not if you don't wish to. If you already deal with tax affairs yourself there is no reason to change. In fact, if you are organised and

NO MORE TAX

Dear Taxman Is Self Assessment just a cunning way of wheedling more tax out of me? Paranoid, BARNES.

TAXMAN SAYS No. Self Assessment is not a new tax and does not affect the amount of tax you pay. It is just a clearer and more straightforward system for working out and paying tax.

How big is it?

Dear Taxman How big is the new Self Assessment tax form? I have a bad back and the doctor says I can't do any heavy lifting. Worried, BRADFORD.

TAXMAN SAYS From next April most people will get a basic, slim-line, eight-page tax return, along with any extra pages we think you may need. (If, for example,

you are self-employed, there will be four extra pages to fill in.) You will get a full list of the supplementary pages available and if you think any apply to you, you'll have plenty of time to send off for them. Guidance notes to help you fill in your tax return and work out your own tax bill - if you want to - will be sent out with the forms.

Please send me more information about Self Assessment.

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Ashdown dampens speculation of closer ties after MP talks of possible merger

Lib Dems try to avoid split on Labour

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE Liberal Democrat leadership fought last night to prevent the party's annual conference being overshadowed by an internal dispute over the party's links with Labour.

Paddy Ashdown and senior colleagues moved swiftly to dampen speculation that the party was preparing closer ties with Labour after a senior Liberal Democrat said that growing consensus could even lead to a merger. The suggestion by Alex Carlile, the home affairs spokesman, threatened to anger Liberal Democrat activists who have bitterly opposed any step towards a closer working relationship with Labour.

Mr Carlile said he saw two parties in the future: "One Conservative Party and the other a democratic party - a liberal democrat, or social democrat

or democratic socialist party, and I don't think the terminology matters very much."

That party would "pick up those values which are the centre-left values which have driven the old Liberal Party and also the views of people like Tony Blair". He also told BBC's *On the Record* that the Liberal Democrats should show interest in offered posts in a Blair-led government.

The comments by Mr Carlile, who is standing down as MP for Montgomery, threatened to wreck the efforts of Mr Ashdown, who earlier in the day had tried to reassure party members that he was not planning closer links with Mr Blair. Although Mr Carlile was known to hold strong views on the relationship between the two parties, senior colleagues were surprised that he had aired them at

such a sensitive time in the run-up to the election.

Mr Ashdown was scathing about Mr Blair's decision to ignore the Liberal Democrats in Scotland by calling a referendum on a Scottish Assembly, against the recommendations of a convention led jointly by the two parties. Conscious of rank-and-file worries about the prospect of informal pacts, he took a hostile stance towards Labour, although he again praised Mr Blair's "courage" in bringing about change. "The Labour Party has slithered about, especially on the issue of Scottish devolution, has done great damage to the whole process of cooperative politics," Mr Ashdown said on *Breakfast with Frost*.

The people's trust in the parties involved in campaigning for Scottish devolution had been "seriously dam-

aged - and it has given the Conservative Party in the process a weapon they should not have, to prevent one of the changes my party has been committed to for 100 years, the formation of a sensible parliament in a devolved country".

He added: "It is probably the biggest mistake Mr Blair has made. It is the question of how far can Labour be trusted. What do they believe in? How deep does that Blair revolution go?"

Despite Liberal Democrat attempts to play down talk of links with Labour, the issue has come to the fore in recent weeks with inter-party discussions on constitutional reform. Activists gathering in Brighton for their annual conference last night were adamant that the party should make itself distinctive from Labour. Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Dem-

ocrat foreign affairs spokesman, conceded that closer connections had been made more possible by the "shedding of so much of the historic baggage of Labour policy".

Mr Campbell has led moves to bring the parties closer together, particularly in Scotland, but he criticised Labour's policy change on the assembly. "Unilateral action of the kind we have seen would rupture any agreement, formal or informal. The more formal the agreement, the more likely the rupture."

Last night Mr Ashdown said: "Alex Carlile has put forward his own view. It isn't mine. I don't think it's shared very widely in the party either."

Matthew Parris and Peter Riddell, page 20
Leading article, page 21

Women wooed with 'cosy family' image

By ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

PADDY ASHDOWN set out to woo women voters yesterday, promising that the Liberal Democrats were the only female-friendly party.

The Liberal Democrat leader is convinced that women are "turned off by the aggressive slanging matches of Tony Blair and John Major". He wants to induce a "cosy family atmosphere" at this week's conference to encourage more women into the fold. Mr Ashdown believes that if the party can capture the women's vote it could win up to 40 seats.

His wife Jane has refused to follow Norma Major and Cherie Blair, who have recently given interviews discussing everything from knitting patterns to their favourite paintings. Mrs Ashdown appeared on Brighton Pier with her husband yesterday morning but has told friends she will not get involved in a competition over her "wifely assets". Instead a triumvirate of Liberal Democrat women will be pushed forward.

Baroness Williams of Crosby, one of the gang of four who founded the SDP in 1981, has been enticed back from America to take a central role in the run-up to the election. She has been asked to help to create a



Nicholson: party's most glamorous asset

"softer, more listening style of politics". Although aides are worried about her legendary scintillating and ruffled appearance, they think she has the gravitas to appeal to elderly voters.

Mr Ashdown yesterday launched *The Liberal Democrat Fair Deal for Women* pamphlet, which declares: "We aim to build a Britain where every woman can shape her own future by developing her skills, enhancing her strengths, for her benefit and that of the whole community."

Emma Nicholson, the MP who recently defected from the Tories, will also play a key role. She is considered the Liberal Democrats' most glamorous asset and has attacked her old party for its "patronising attitude to women". Dressed in a yellow anorak, she signed copies yesterday of her book about the Tory party, *Secret Society*. She said that the Tories were "incompetent and cruel" and that their campaign would be "filthy beyond belief".

Diana Maddock, spokesperson on women and family policy, is the third in the triumvirate and known for her no-nonsense, housewife approach.



LIBERAL DEMOCRAT CONFERENCE AGENDA			
TODAY 23	ECONOMY: Malcolm Bruce, Treasury spokesman, tells activists that some priorities must be shelved to curb spending plans in run-up to general election. Reaffirms 50p tax rate for earners over £100,000 to remove 750,000 £4k earners from tax.	EUROPE: Party's pro-European stance tempered as Charles Kennedy, European spokesman, criticises running of European Union and emphasises need to improve common fisheries and agriculture policies.	WATER/ENERGY: Activists reinforce party's conservation credentials by demanding meters for heavy water users and setting targets for reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Curb water company profits by imposing 2 per cent levy, to be used as grants to promote water-efficient appliances.
TUESDAY 24	LEADER'S SPEECH: Paddy Ashdown calls on party to take courage in spelling out clarity of core policies on education, Europe, taxation and the environment and to contrast Lib Dem consistency with Labour policy changes.	DEVOLUTION: Jim Wallace, Scottish spokesman, leads Lib Dem backlash against Labour's decision to hold a referendum on a Scottish assembly, against the recommendation of a convention led by the two parties. Expected to win that party may block the plan in Parliament.	CRIME: Party calls for ban on handguns and laws to prevent stalking. Wants new ways of dealing with criminals, including reconciliation meetings with victims and family conferences for juvenile offenders. Calls on councils to set up mediation sessions for neighbours in dispute.
WEDNESDAY 25	EDUCATION: Don Foster, education spokesman, braves himself for a backlash after announcing that some key education policies, including raising teachers' pay, will be shelved to keep within commitment to spend £2 billion extra on education.	FISHING: Party leadership tones down its pro-European sympathies in response to anger in its South West heartland over fishing quotas. Party calls for a new fisheries policy, with quotas to be managed by regions of Europe, such as Mediterranean or North Irish Sea.	ABUSE OF SERVANTS: First party to hold conference debate on "slavery" in Britain as activists hear of 2,000 overseas servants suffering sexual and physical abuse at the hands of wealthy employers, including diplomats.
THURSDAY 26	GENERAL ELECTION: Conference during Shirley Williams' return to the platform to rally activists in advance of general election campaign.	HOUSING: Liberal Democrats try to outflank two main parties by pledging to phase out mortgage interest tax relief and target mortgage benefit at those homeowners on low pay and income support.	OVERSEAS AID: Party risks dissent over radical break from past spending commitment by doubling to ten years the period in which overseas development budget will reach United Nations target.

Party to debate claims that Britain is a 'slave haven'

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SERVANTS subjected to sexual assault, starvation and imprisonment are to provoke a new wave of political debate on slavery in Britain. 163 years after its supposed abolition.

Campaigners claim that Britain has become a "slave haven" for wealthy foreign employers, including senior diplomats, who can abuse their servants without the fear of court action.

Immigration rule changes introduced by the Government prevent many foreign domestic staff from leaving their jobs, even if they have suffered physical abuse. Migrant workers who enter Britain as servants are allowed to stay only while remaining with their original employer.

A survey by Kalayaan, a voluntary help group for Filipino migrant workers, suggested that four in ten overseas servants have suffered physical abuse, six in ten have been deprived of regular food and one in ten

has been sexually assaulted or raped.

Now the issue is to be debated at two of the major party conferences. This week the Liberal Democrats will demand changes allowing abused workers the right to leave their job and remain in Britain. Labour delegates will make a similar demand when they meet in Blackpool next week.

The Liberal Democrats want abused domestic workers to be allowed to change jobs and take court action against their previous employer. They also want overseas employers who leave Britain to remain liable to compensation claims in this country.

Since 1987, campaigners have recorded more than 2,000 cases of abuse of domestic workers. They include those who have been made to work 18 hours a day, been refused time off and been barred from leaving the house. Others have been re-

fused payment for months at a time - in one case, for four years - and have had their passports confiscated or have been refused their own bed.

Many of the cases involve employers from Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka and Nepal. Campaign groups claim that allegations of slavery are justified because the lack of help offered to servants by the Government allows employers total control of their workers' lives. Although employers can be prosecuted, campaigners say that police are reluctant to take action against overseas employers who may not stay in Britain for long.

Domestic staff whose English is poor also face difficulties in pressing charges. The Liberal Democrats have set aside a prime slot for a debate at this month's conference - just before Mr Ashdown makes his speech. Slavery was abolished in Britain by the party's predecessors, the Whig Government,

in 1833. The issue will come to the fore again at the Labour Party conference in Blackpool when Kalayaan will address a fringe meeting.

Margaret Healy, Kalayaan co-ordinator, said: "It's time that the abuse was taken seriously by ministers. It's so blatant and so easy to prove and yet the law allows these workers to be treated differently from other staff in Britain. We are treating overseas workers in a way that other countries in Europe do not."

Home Office ministers have considered changing the law but argue that, by allowing servants to leave their employers, it would become more difficult to keep control of the 12,000 domestic staff who enter Britain each year. Campaigners say that the present system encourages staff to leave their jobs, change their identity and take other work illegally, which makes it impossible for immigration authorities to trace them.

Lured to London and life of abuse

CASE HISTORIES

where I do not know what he did."

Samantha, 27, was made a virtual prisoner by her employer. He took her passport, prevented her from using the telephone and refused to let her leave the flat alone.

She thought that his wife help her. But the woman told her she was lazy, dirty and unfit to look after her children, and on one occasion beat her with a broom.

"They told me I could not eat food from the fridge - only scraps that they left from their meals," Samantha said. "I was hungry and frightened. I could not understand why they were treating me like an animal they didn't like."

With calculating cruelty, Samantha's employers would occasionally show kindness to their maid. "I cried with gratitude when they were nice and then they would start to hurt me again. I thought I was going mad."

She had put up with daily abuse only because she believed that her wages of about

£120 a month were being sent to her family in the Philippines. She escaped after discovering that this was a lie.

Another Filipina, Annie, 37, was never struck by her employers, a Lebanese couple living in London. But they watched with amusement while their child beat her for fun. "The girl's kicks and punches hurt me a lot," she said. "The blows to my breasts caused bruising and much pain. Her parents weren't concerned at all - I was less than human to them."

Soon after her arrival in London she realised that she was a prisoner. Her passport was taken away and she was not allowed to leave her employers' home or use the telephone. "They made me sleep on the floor," she said. "I was their slave. The working day began at 6am and frequently I worked 18 hours before going to sleep again."

Annie came to Britain to earn money to feed her children in the Philippines, but her wages were never paid. Her

mail was intercepted and her letters home were torn up. When she could endure no more she ran away.

Father Aodh O'Halloran, a Roman Catholic priest in London who helps migrant workers who are abused by their employers, said that Annie's case was "depressingly typical". He added: "They are mistreated seven days a week, 18 hours a day. They are badly fed, made to sleep in broom cupboards or lavatories and abused sexually and physically. It is abject degradation."

Most Liberal Democrats were hard pushed to remember the sensational case, Andrew Wallis, 27, the parliamentary prospective candidate for York, said: "I was only seven at the time. This is ancient history. We are by far the cleanest party now and very different from the old Liberals."

Thorpe claims fail to excite

By ALICE THOMSON

THE Liberal Democrats last night shrugged off new allegations about Jeremy Thorpe, his homosexual affairs, financial manipulation and the Establishment's attempts to protect him.

The claims about the former Liberal leader are based on *Rinkergate - the Rise and Fall of Jeremy Thorpe*, a new book on his alleged complicity in a plot to murder Norman Scott, a charge of which he was acquitted.

Liberal Democrat MPs distanced themselves from the most charismatic leader of the Liberals, disowning him as part of their past. None wanted to talk about the man who delivered six million votes for his party in 1974.

Several of the older party supporters had scanned extracts of the book published in *The Sunday Times*. Jeff Allen, a former Liberal from Poole, said: "Thorpe wouldn't recognise our party now. We have changed - all that is in the past and the poor man should be left in peace. Politics was a different game in those days."

Most Liberal Democrats were hard pushed to remember the sensational case, Andrew Wallis, 27, the parliamentary prospective candidate for York, said: "I was only seven at the time. This is ancient history. We are by far the cleanest party now and very different from the old Liberals."

FOR TUESDAY'S 10p TIMES
SEE VOUCHER ON PAGE 10

Euro-sceptics make waves in England's seaside conference towns

During the party conference season, diplomats from neighbouring EU states will be prowling the hotel corridors of rainswept seaside towns in search of the answer to just one question: Has Britain gone irretrievably Euro-sceptic?

Whenever one of these seekers after the truth of Britain's mysterious mind-set on Europe asks me, I usually reply that Britons still like Europe as much as they ever did — it is just the EU that worries them. But I am forced to admit in the same breath that the British debate overlaps less and less with the continental agenda and is more and more a struggle between



different shades of scepticism. That is scepticism in the original sense of the word: "doubt as to the truth of some assertion or supposed fact". In spite of being carpet-bombed by assertions and supposed facts by a coalition of big businessmen, much of the

Foreign Office, Gordon Brown's advisers and a brace of former foreign secretaries, Britons cannot be cajoled into seeing Europe through German, French or Belgian eyes. Advocates of a single currency are reduced to urging British membership on the ground that all the other options available are worse.

Most of the British political class, not to mention wider public opinion, stubbornly refuse to accept the blinding advantages of the single currency or to agree with Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, that the choice over deeper integration is between peace and war, or to regard Europe as more important than jobs, the health service or schools.

If I were a London-based diplomat for another EU country, I would be bound to conclude that the British political class was converging on a more sceptical outlook and diverging from the continent.

The term "sceptic" has, of course, been mangled and misused by Westminster tribal warfare, but Tory Euro-scepticism is only one variety of the range available. Mistrust of Brussels works for advertisers.

Five years ago, Becks would not have dreamt of selling beer by lampooning Eurocrats. The tone on the Left and in the Centre has altered. An editorial in *The Independent* inveighs

against nationalism and xenophobia but comes out against economic and monetary union; *Guardian* writers criticise the EU's direction. Last week in *The Times*, Paddy Ashdown took a characteristically athletic leap over Labour and sounded more mistrustful of the EU than Tony Blair.

Fresh straws in the wind floated past last week in the shape of pamphlets from the Centre for European Reform, a left-inclined think-tank backed by multinationals and Labour intellectuals worried that the party is not thinking hard enough about the EU. Of the six authors writing in the keynote pamphlet, only one argues from a truly continental outlook. Two essays berate

the rest of Europe for wasting precious time and energy on monetary union when so much needs to be done with Central Europe.

All the contributors may grow lukewarm, sensible and sceptical when contemplating the EU that we actually have, but they are still dead keen that Britain should join the party. Using exactly that image, one writer urges Britain towards more social self-confidence. We should not be a "sullen adolescent guest — too shy to dance, too nervous to leave — but the heart and soul of the party: a good companion committed by instinct to make a worthwhile event even better".

Attitude and style matter in

diplomacy, but the present EU is also the site of a permanent negotiation over the distribution of power. Power battles involve hard choices about national interests and, worse still, there are winners and losers.

Winning friends and influence can cost governments their principles and sticking to their guns can drive allies away. I once asked Karl Lamers, the leading German Christian Democrat, what it would take to convince him that Britain had turned truly European. "You would need to join the single currency at the start," he replied without a moment's hesitation. Few of

the Centre for European Reform's optimistic authors show any awareness of how exasperating most continental politicians will find their mixture of good intentions and sceptical prescriptions.

For a clear analysis of New Labour's European prospects, you need this week's Fabian pamphlet from Graham Leicesters, a former diplomat, who asks: "Can Blair Succeed where Major Failed?". Because Labour is dodging the difficult issues, Mr Leicesters seems to doubt that Mr Blair can bridge the gap which opened beneath John Major when he went looking for the heart of Europe.

GEORGE BROCK

Spanish Prince avoids Charles's blunders

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

FEARFUL of the "Prince Charles syndrome", the Spanish royal household has plunged Crown Prince Felipe into a hectic schedule of public engagements.

Royal aides here, having observed the apparent disenchantment in Britain with the Prince of Wales, are anxious to ensure that the 29-year-old heir to the Spanish throne wins public confidence early on.

"We cannot afford to let Prince Felipe wither on the vine, as Prince Charles seems to have done," said a source close to the Crown. "Britain is now paying the price for keeping the Queen's successor on the shelf for so long. Spain must avoid that error at all costs."

The last time a King of Spain inherited the throne and passed it on to his successor was in the late 18th century — when Charles IV succeeded Charles III — and King Juan Carlos is determined to provide his son with a trouble-free succession.

Prince Felipe's busy schedule is aimed at raising his profile with the public and school him in affairs of state. "Prince Charles is a well-meaning man with too much time on his hands," another Spanish Crown source said. "That is a recipe for disaster in an heir to the throne. Our Crown Prince has to work, work, work and to learn from British blunders."

According to the Oxford historian Charles Powell, author of a recent biography of King Juan Carlos, Prince Felipe is "on paper, the most highly qualified heir Spain has ever had". He gained an arts degree in Madrid and a Master's in International Relations at Georgetown University in Washington.

"He also has the inestimable advantage of being able to get to know his country's people before ascending the throne, something his father could never do," Dr Powell said.

Close attention is being paid to finding a wife for the heir. Now that his alleged romance with Gisel "Gigi" Howard, an American psychology student, appears to have fizzled out, speculation has arisen that his public engagements may soon include a betrothal to Princess Tatiana of Liechtenstein.

Papandreou family feud overshadows Greek poll campaign

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ATHENS

AS 8.5 million Greeks went to the polls yesterday in a close contest between Left and Right, the shade of Andreas Papandreou, the late Prime Minister, returned to haunt his successors in Pasok, the ruling Pan Hellenic Socialist Party. Papandreou's striking and controversial widow, Dimitra Liani — better known as Mimi — accused her detractors in Pasok of being "little men" who did not measure up to her late husband.

The Mimi factor exploded in what had been a quiet campaign. A former air hostess, Mimi was constantly at Papandreou's side during his final years and has kept his memory alive since he died three months ago. She has largely kept out of the election campaign, apart from the dry observation that it was "a drama without protagonists".

The election was called by Papandreou's successor, Costas Simitis, a year earlier in the hope of capitalising on the respect he had won as a modernising pro-European technocrat. But Mr Simitis, 60, has seen his standing in the opinion polls fall from 70 per cent to 30 per cent, partly because of the schism caused by the formation of a left-wing Euro-sceptical splinter group, Dikili, led by Dimitris Tsoulas, a former Finance Minister, and partly because Mr Simitis lacks Papandreou's common touch.

Early exit polls yesterday showed Mr Simitis taking a slight lead over Miltiadis Evert, leader of the conservative New Democracy.

In the final days of the campaign Mr Simitis, who had campaigned largely on television, began to "meet the people" in walkabouts and rallies and attempted fiery Papandreou-style rhetoric.

But Mr Simitis has lost ground to Mr Evert, who promised financial support for farmers and played the nationalist card with his confrontational approach to "Turkish aggression" in the Aegean. Mr Evert blamed 12 years of Pasok rule for high unemployment, a huge national debt and delayed privatisation.

Tensions between Mrs Papandreou and members of the family have simmered since the publication ten days ago of Papandreou's will, in which he left everything to her, including personal archive. "Mimi knows where the bodies are buried," one party insider said.

Papandreou left his three sons — one of whom, George, is Education Minister in the outgoing Government — nothing but "my name and their good education". Last week Nikos Papandreou said the widow was a domineering woman who had brought about his father's death and ruined his career.

Sophie Katsanevas, Papandreou's daughter, said she and her husband, Theodore, a leading Pasok figure described in Papandreou's will as a "disgrace", were contesting the legacy. Mrs Papandreou said she believed Mr and Mrs Katsanevas were behind a "campaign of hatred" against her, including the release to the media of photographs showing her naked.



Mimi Papandreou, widow of the former Greek Prime Minister, voting in Athens yesterday



The Pope blesses the 200,000 crowd gathered for the Mass at Rheims yesterday, the final day of his tour

Secular protests condemn papal Mass for Clovis

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN RHEIMS

THE Pope celebrated the religious conversion of a pagan French king yesterday as hundreds of demonstrators gathered in Paris to denounce the papal visit and declare that France is a secular state with no need for popes or kings.

The fourth and final day of the Pope's tour illustrated two opposed conceptions of the French national identity: the first Catholic, traditional and with a residual taste for monarchy; the other secular, republican and founded on the ideals of the 1789 Revolution.

More than 200,000 people gathered for a papal Mass at a military airbase near Rheims in northern France to mark the baptism of the Frankish King Clovis 1,500 years ago, an event which many traditionalists and the extreme-right National Front have hailed as symbolising the birth of France. As wine for the Mass was distributed from barrels carried through the crowd, some of the congregation waved banners proclaiming: "Baptism of Clovis — Baptism of France."

At the same time secular and left-wing groups held demonstrations insisting that government participation in the Clovis festivities violates the separation of church and state and undermines republican ideals.

At the battlefield of Valmy, 20 miles from Rheims, Freemasons gathered on the spot where revolutionary troops repelled Prussian and Austrian armies bent on destroying the Revolution. On September 22, 1792, the day after the victory, the monarchy was formally abolished and the First Republic proclaimed.

More than 70 groups, including anarchists, feminists, environmentalists, left-wing organisations and anti-racist protesters assembled at the Place de la Bastille in Paris beneath banners declaring "Religion Oppresses" to protest at the Pope's conservative teachings on sexual morality, abortion and priestly celibacy.

Demonstrators claim that £4 million of state money has been spent on the Pope's visit and the celebration of King Clovis, portrayed by some historians as a bloodthirsty warlord rather than a worthy symbol of French nationalism.

Captain of Korean submarine shot dead

Seoul: The captain of a North Korean submarine was tracked down by South Korean troops and killed in a gun battle yesterday, the army reported. The exchange was one of two during the night (Nick Long writes).

Another infiltrator in a South Korean uniform and two South Korean soldiers also died in the clashes, bringing to three the total of Seoul soldiers killed since the start of the operation.

Rocket-propelled grenades and missile launchers may have been brought ashore by the North Koreans, who infiltrated the South last week, according to a prisoner's reported testimony.

Lee Kwang Su, the captured North Korean, was quoted by the *Hankook Ilbo* newspaper as saying that weapons and explosives were on board the submarine that ran aground off the east coast of South Korea on Wednesday.

A senior South Korean intelligence official denied any such weapons or missiles had been found on the submarine, but the prisoner was quoted as saying they may have been thrown overboard or taken ashore in the days before the submarine ran aground.

Although the prisoner has changed his story more than once, his latest revelation fits with the view of some military sources that the mission was more than reconnaissance.

In particular it may help to explain why, in contrast to previous infiltrations, the agents and crew apparently numbered more than 25, many of whom were officers.

Armenia's head faces challenge

MOSCOW: President Levon Ter-Petrosyan of Armenia was fighting off a strong challenge from his former Prime Minister in the country's first post-Soviet presidential elections, Vazgen Manukyan, Prime Minister in 1990 and 1991, promises to crack down on corruption. (AP)

Avalanche toll

KATHMANDU: Two Nepali sherpas and a French climber, Yves Bouchon, 47, a surgeon from Nancy, died on Mount Everest in an avalanche, Nepal's Tourism Ministry said. They were on three separate expeditions. (Reuters)

Corsica blasts

AJACCIO: Bombs thought to have been planted by Corsican nationalists exploded outside six Post Offices before dawn yesterday. No injuries, but considerable damage, resulted from the blasts across the south of the island. (AP)

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CHANGING TIMES

مكذبا من الأصل

Haul of heroin on Samper jet adds to Colombia's woes

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND GABRIELLA GAMINI IN BOGOTÁ

PRESIDENT Samper of Colombia, who flew to New York at the weekend to make an anti-drugs speech at the United Nations, is mired in new controversy after the discovery of 7lb of heroin on board the presidential plane.

An anonymous caller alerted the Colombian Air Force to the drugs on board the Boeing 707 a few hours before it was due to carry the President to the UN General Assembly session. A search of the plane, kept under air force guard, found 14 packets of heroin.

President Samper, who switched to an Avianca commercial airliner, told a press conference before his departure that whoever had hidden the drug knew "he was dirtying the face of Colombia".

The President called it "a nasty conspiracy" to discredit him, while other government ministers implied it was part of an "international plot" to force his downfall. But he said

"greater harm" would have been done if the drugs had been detected by the US authorities on his arrival.

"There is no question someone is trying to throw mud on the President," said Carlos Medellín, the Justice Minister.

President Samper is at the centre of a major political crisis stemming from allegations that his 1994 election campaign was financed with \$6 million from the country's Cali cocaine cartel. Close aides have been jailed for illegally enriching themselves with drug traffickers' money, but the President insists he was unaware of any campaign contributions from drug barons. He has twice been acquitted by the highly partisan Colombian congress.

America, however, has stripped Señor Samper of his US tourist visa and "declassified" Colombia as a partner in its fight against illegal drugs. The Colombian President

travelled to New York on a diplomatic visa.

In his UN address today he is expected to lay out a global anti-drugs strategy that includes the creation of an international court to try drug traffickers.

Colombia provides an estimated 80 per cent of the cocaine on US streets and recently became also its largest single supplier of heroin.

At home, where demands for the President's resignation have grown louder in past months, the prevailing theory is that his political opponents planted the heroin in his jet.

A poll this week showed that more than 65 per cent of Colombians want Señor Samper to resign. Cries along the plushiest avenues in Bogotá are buzzing with a recurring question: "When will the President fall?"

Most people are wondering whether he can hold out until his mandate ends in 1998.



Tokyo shoppers battle Typhoon Violet yesterday. Three people died and six were reported missing in the storm, which caused dozens of landslides

Fraud trial forces Rao to quit as Congress chief

Delhi: India's discredited Congress Party is reeling from the resignation of P.V. Narasimha Rao, the former Prime Minister, as party president after he was ordered to appear in court to answer allegations of criminal conspiracy (Christopher Thomas writes). His 55-year political career is

evidently moving to a degrading end. His achievement is the near-destruction of the party that led India to independence by his tolerance of unprecedented high-level corruption. Once the towering force of politics, the party is now held in contempt.

The 111-year-old Congress Party

faces a leadership clamour. An interim president is due to be chosen today pending a full party election. The front-runner is almost unknown beyond his immediate political circles: A.K. Antony, Chief Minister of the small, progressive southern state of Kerala, the only state with almost universal

literacy. He is favoured because of his reputation for honesty.

Mr Rao has been ordered to appear in court next Monday to answer an allegation that he was involved in cheating a British-based businessman, Lakhubhai Pathak, who produces pickles, of \$64,000 in 1987.

Kaunda ban 'puts democracy at risk'

BY MICHAEL DUNYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Zambian Government's decision to bar Kenneth Kaunda, the former President, from standing again for election has thrown President Chiluba's commitment to human rights into doubt and jeopardised Zambia's experiment in democracy, according to a Commonwealth group.

A sharply critical report on next month's Zambian elections says that President Chiluba's determination to debar his predecessor was galling to many Zambians. It could lead to an embarrassing confrontation with aid donors. If the elections go ahead under these conditions, the report says, all the sacrifices of the adjustment to a market economy will come to naught. The report, published today by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, speaks of the growing authoritarianism of President Chiluba, who is behaving as though he had a mandate to govern as his party sees fit. It urges the dispatch of Commonwealth observers and calls on Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Secretary-General, or a neutral Zambian to begin a dialogue between the parties.



Kaunda: barred from election campaign

Rock art inspires new theory of man

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

THE discovery of ancient rock art in Western Australia, which has been described as Australia's Stonehenge, could prompt a rewrite of the history of human life. Australian scientists said yesterday.

Dr Lesley Head, of the University of Wollongong, said: "The discovery is going to stimulate a whole lot of new questions. All of us involved in the project are very excited, but there is a degree of caution because the results are just so different from our present understanding."

The evidence found suggests that Aboriginal occupation of Australia could be more than double previous estimates of 60,000 years.

"We expect our findings will be thoroughly scrutinised and people will have most problems with the concept that Aborigines have been here for 116,000 years," Dr Head said. "It's just so much longer than previously thought."

His comments follow the revelation that tools used to make rock art and enormous sculpted boulders believed to

Clashes at Bhutto protest

Larkana: Protesters clashed with police yesterday at the house of Murtaza Bhutto, dead estranged brother of Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan's Prime Minister, blocking a condolence visit by President Leghari.

About 250 protesters accused Ms Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, of conspiring in the death of their leader in a shootout with police. Ms Bhutto broke into tears while receiving mourners with her sister in the village of Naudero, Sindh. (Reuters)

Somali killing

Mogadishu: Three unidentified gunmen assassinated Abdi Ashir Korir, an official of the Somali militia, led by Osman Ali Aze, raising fears of a new outbreak of inter-faction fighting in the capital. (Reuters)

Macau elections

Hong Kong: Macau voters went to the polls for the last time before the 1999 handover to China (Jonathan Minsky writes). Unlike in Hong Kong, these elections — for eight seats in the 23-member legislature — had Peking's blessing.

Olympic row

Sydney: The Sydney 2000 Olympics logo, featuring boomerangs in the shape of an athlete, is at the centre of a legal row after four sisters from a graphic design studio said it was based on an idea they submitted twice. (AFP)

Beauty and beast

Johannesburg: Miss South Africa, who plans a ritual slaughter if she wins Miss World, has been asked by the Animal Anti-Cruelty League to end her role promoting animal rights for it.



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CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الأصل

Israelis on alert after threats of more suicide bombings

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISLAMIC JIHAD, one of the two main terrorist groups dedicated to wrecking the fragile peace accord between Israel and the Palestinians, has vowed to resume suicide bombings which have been suspended since the right-wing Likud Government won the May election.

The Tel Aviv newspaper *Yediot Achronot* reported yesterday that, as a result of the threat by Ramadan Abdallah Shallah, the Damascus-based organisation's new secretary-general, Israeli police and ambulance services had been placed on high alert.

Suicide bombers from Islamic Jihad and Hamas carried out four devastating suicide attacks in February and March that killed more than 60 people and are widely regarded as having swung voters behind the "peace with security" slogan of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Likud leader.

The new threat was reported in the London-based Arabic daily *al-Hayat* after Jihad al-Khazen, its editor, interviewed the new Islamic Jihad leader at an undisclosed location. The interview came almost a year after Fathi Shikaki, the organisation's founder and spiritual leader, was assassinated by Israeli Mossad agents in Malta.

"The secretary-general of Islamic Jihad and other Islamic leaders expect these attacks to be resumed soon," the paper said. "The leaders said there were pressures at all levels to resume operations similar to those carried out in February, particularly as the first anniversary of Fathi Shikaki's assassination is approaching."

A senior Islamic Jihad official told a Palestinian source in Gaza at the weekend that the group had got to the point where "there is no alternative to returning to the path the



Netanyahu: won voters with security slogan

Zionist state understands; the holy jihad. Painful blows ... will embarrass the Netanyahu Government and the corrupt and shameful Palestinian Authority."

In a reference to the ruling Palestinian body led by Yasser Arafat, which rounded up about 900 activists after the bombings, *al-Hayat* said: "Shallah complained that the authority's intelligence bodies were chasing the group's activists, which makes the execution of attacks against Israeli targets difficult."

The Islamic Jihad leader, who has been granted permission by President Assad of Syria to base his organisation in Damascus along with other "rejectionist" groups, added that the Palestinian police were "worse than the Israelis" in treatment of prisoners.

Yitzhak Mordchai, the Israeli Defence Minister, interviewed yesterday by *Yediot*, was asked how he explained the recent lull in bombings. "Our activities and those of the Palestinian Authority caused a division in their ranks," he said. "Some of them came to the conclusion that catastrophic events hurt them more than they hurt us."



An Orthodox Jew recites from the Scriptures as he holds a chicken over his son's head on the Day of Atonement

Anxiety marks Yom Kippur holiday amid memories of surprise attack

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

ISRAEL ground to an eerie halt at sunset last night as Jews began marking Yom Kippur (The Day of Atonement), the holiest date in their calendar, amid fears that Syria or Islamic terrorists might use the occasion — when there is no transport, radio or television — to launch a surprise attack.

Such is the intensity of religious observance on the fast day when, according to Jewish tradition, gates for the coming year are sealed that even ambulances racing to and from emergencies are liable to be stoned.

Most Jews and non-Jews alike leave their cars at home, and even many non-observant Jews avoid wearing leather shoes as a sign of mourning for the deceased.

All airports are shut and borders sealed.

Recent unexplained Syrian troop movements near the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights have cast a cloud of anxiety over a day when, according to yesterday's opinion poll, 73 per cent of Jews in Israel fast and 69 per cent go to synagogue. Few have forgotten the attack by Syrian and Egyptian forces in 1973 when army reservists ran to join their units still wearing their prayer shawls.

"Yes, 23 years ago we were surprised," Yitzhak Mordchai, the Defence Minister, admitted to Israel radio in a special interview, having warned Syria to change its tactics of trying to pressure Israel into concessions over the Golan. "Mr Syrian President," he told the mass-circulation paper *Yediot Achronot*,

which he said he was using to pass the warning to Damascus, "the state of Israel and its security forces are strong and able to fulfil their goals. On that I have not a speck of doubt. My advice to you is: come, let us go a different path."

Explaining the significance of Yom Kippur, which ends at sunset tonight with the sounding of the shofar or ram's horn, a spokesman for the Government of Benjamin Netanyahu said: "It is a day of introspection, completely separate from the normal course of life — the physical aspects of our lives are sublimated while we concentrate on our spiritual concerns."

With the gap between religious and secular Israelis growing, not all Jews observe the restrictions, although most of those who are not

usually observant try to fit into the sombre mood. Even leftwingers were infuriated a few years ago when a Labour Knesset member, Yael Dayan, daughter of the swash-buckling war hero Moshe Dayan, allowed herself to be photographed sunbathing on a Tel Aviv beach on Yom Kippur.

"Rollerbladers, skateboarders and bicyclists have begun taking over the empty streets from the pedestrians, but this still remains a uniquely contemplative day in the life of a nation nearing the 21st century," said one veteran Jerusalem resident.

Although Israel radio will remain silent, a skeleton staff is on stand-by ready to broadcast the special codes used to call up Israel's large reserve army in case of a security alert.

Nato prepares to rid policy of last Cold War traces

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MAJOR changes in Nato's command structure which will eliminate the last traces of Cold War security strategy will be discussed by alliance defence ministers at a meeting in Norway on Wednesday.

The informal session at Bergen, which will also be attended by General Igor Rodionov, the new Russian Defence Minister, will provide further impetus to the plans for a comprehensive reform of Nato.

The blueprint for a new-look Nato, which is already far advanced, will be used by the alliance to demonstrate to Russia and East European states who want to join Nato that the organisation has "changed its spots", according to one senior Nato source.

The reforms have also been developed to encourage France to rejoin the integrated military structure which it left in 1965. President Chirac has indicated his personal wish for France to play a full part in Nato again and it is now hoped that next year there will be two momentous developments for the alliance: a decision by France to return to the integrated military structure, and an agreement by the 16 member states to invite Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and possibly Slovenia to start negotiations for joining.

Crucial to France's decision will be the creation of a formal European defence identity within the alliance, leading to a more balanced division of responsibilities between Europe and the United States.

As part of the new Nato command structure, it is expected that European commanders will be appointed to more of the top Nato posts which are currently dominated by Americans.

This would open up the opportunity for French commanders to move into some of the most influential jobs, once France is reintegrated. Spain, which is also planning to integrate fully into the military structure, will similarly benefit from the changes.

The only appointment expected to remain in American hands is that of the Supreme Allied Commander Europe. European members of the alliance are agreed that America must retain the top military job in Europe to ensure continuing US commitment. "The [other] top posts could be rotated," one Nato source declared.

The aim of the changed command system will be to prepare Nato troops for force projection and crisis management inside and outside alliance territory.

The new military structure will take on board all the lessons learnt from the Nato-led peace operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Both France and Spain have successfully integrated into Nato's Implementation Force (Ifor) in Bosnia and hold appropriate command positions.

The Bergen meeting will not lead to decisions on the key issues ahead for Nato because it is only an informal ministerial session. However, in the past these more relaxed occasions have generated ideas that have eventually turned into important policy developments. The most notable example was at a meeting at Traravunde in Germany in October 1993, when the idea of the Partnership for Peace scheme was first discussed.

In looking at the plans for expanding Nato, British officials will be keen to get away from the notion that new members will join in "waves" of three or four. Although it is agreed that there are obvious frontrunners for the first phase in Nato's expansion plans, the emphasis will be on keeping the door open for other members, rather than instituting a queue system.

This will allow more time for Russia to get used to the idea of an expanded alliance. It will also enable the countries which present the most difficult challenge for Nato, like the three Baltic states, to feel they have a chance of future membership without desperately trying to get in before the door closes.

Reforms signal that the military organisation has changed its spots

NEWS IN BRIEF

Clinton outlaws gay marriage

Washington: President Clinton waited until the small hours of the morning before signing a Bill that banned the US Government from recognising same-sex marriages (Jan Brodie writes).

In contrast to the exuberant signing ceremonies in the White House Rose Garden whenever Mr Clinton has a Bill to brag about, he reluctantly appended his name to the Defence of Marriage behind closed doors at 12.50am with no cameras, no guests and no fanfare. Elizabeth Birch, director of the Human Rights Campaign, the largest gay rights group, accused Mr Clinton of betrayal.

Bastion falls

Washington: The governors of America's last all-male military academy, the state-funded Virginia Military Institute, narrowly agreed to admit women but vowed to make no concessions over the harsh regimen.

Lucky strike

New York: A palm-sized picture card from 1910 of an almost-forgotten baseball great, Honus Wagner, fetched a record \$640,500 (£413,225) at auction here. It was promptly put on sale for \$1 million.

Pentagon admits it taught Latin Americans to torture

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE Pentagon has admitted that its training centre for Latin American military and police officers used manuals that advocated torture, execution, blackmail and other forms of coercion against insurgents.

Confirming accusations levelled by critics over the years, the Pentagon conceded that the manuals at the US Army's School of the Americas violated United States policy and principles.

For example, the volumes proposed that counter-intelligence agents trying to recruit informants could employ "fear, payment of bounties for enemy dead, beatings, false imprisonment, executions and the use of truth serum". A manual entitled *Handling of*

Sources advised intelligence officers that in seeking information from an insurgent "involuntarily" they should consider arresting his parents or giving him a beating.

The School of the Americas, based at Fort Benning in Georgia, was originally intended to impede any advance of Communism in Latin America. But it became notorious for the human rights abuses among its graduates. They included Roberto D'Aubuisson, leader of the right-wing death squads in El Salvador; 19 Salvadoran soldiers linked to the murders of six Jesuit priests in 1989; and, most infamous of all, Manuel Noriega, the deposed dictator of Panama who is serving a life sentence in the US for drug

trafficking. Joseph Kennedy, a Democratic Congressman, has been trying to close it as a Cold War relic that became a school for dictators.

He said: "This report shows what we have long suspected, that taxpayers' dollars have been used to train military officers in executions, extortion, beatings and intimidation — all civil rights abuses which have no place in civilised society."

A Pentagon investigation claimed that the coercive methods were included in the manuals through bureaucratic oversight and were compiled by army intelligence officers using outdated material without the required "doctrinal approval" of their superiors.

Vienna group armed Muslims

Washington: Illegal weapons worth millions of dollars were channelled into Bosnia from Muslim governments and radical Islamic movements with the help of an obscure organisation in Vienna, according to a report yesterday (Jan Brodie writes).

Austrian investigators traced the flow of \$350 million (£230 million) from documents and bank records after raiding the headquarters of the Third World Relief Agency. The

Washington Post reported. At least half the money was used in defiance of the United Nations arms embargo to buy black-market weapons for smuggling to the Bosnian government army. Intelligence officials said.

The agency was started ten years ago as a Muslim humanitarian aid group and embarked on several civilian projects before brokering weapons deals with the backing of the Bosnian Government.

ment, the report said. The head of the agency was identified as Elfatih Hassanain, a former Sudanese diplomat who is a close ally of Alija Izetbegovic, Bosnia's Muslim President.

Bosnia was helped with weapons or cash by Iran and Sudan, both on the US State Department's list of countries that support terrorism, as well as Turkey, Brunei, Malaysia and Pakistan. The biggest contributor was Saudi Arabia.

Suspect Du Pont 'says he is Dalai Lama'

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

JOHN E. DU PONT, the American millionaire who is charged with murdering an Olympic wrestler, was described at the weekend as a paranoid schizophrenic who considers himself the Dalai Lama, the last Russian Tsar and Jesus Christ.

Mr Du Pont, a wrestling enthusiast and heir to the Du Pont chemicals fortune, is accused of shooting David Schultz, the Olympic gold medalist he had hired as a

Two defence psychiatrists told a judge at a hearing on Saturday that Mr Du Pont, 58, had been psychotic for months, and probably years, before the killing on January 26 and was mentally incompetent to stand trial.

Just last week, he fired his two defence lawyers, accusing them of conspiring against him with the CIA. His family are suing to take control of his \$80 million (£50 million) estate.

"He's not faking it," said Robert Sadoff, one of the psychiatrists. "It's real. He's psychotic."

Resnick said Mr Du Pont heard "the voice of God", suspected that any telephone was bugged and believed he was the target of international assassins. He could hold a normal conversation about certain topics such as wrestling, but became elusive when asked to work on his defence, they said.

Dennis McAndrews, the prosecutor, challenged the psychiatrists' view and said Mr Du Pont had been rational enough to sign a \$300-an-hour contract with lawyers.

"Did he sign 'Dalai Lama'?" Mr McAndrews asked. "Did



Du Pont charged with killing Olympic wrestler

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Gone in a flash

BACK in the 1950s there was alarm when the claim was made that we could all be persuaded to do things against our will by messages flashed on a screen too fast for conscious thought. Such "subliminal" slogans were supposed to penetrate deep into the mind without our knowing, leading us to buy unwanted products or vote for completely unsuitable candidates.

The man behind the story was a New York motivational researcher called James Vicary, who claimed that advertising messages flashed for a brief instant on the screen of a drive-in cinema in Fort Dix, New Jersey, could act as "hidden persuaders". He claimed to have increased the sales of Coca-Cola and popcorn by this ruse.

Ever since, people given to the milder forms of neurosis have worried that they are being manipulated by ads on TV or in the cinema. Finally, three psychologists from the University of Washington in Seattle have been able to demonstrate that this worry is unfounded.

They have shown that subliminal messages do indeed have an effect, the first time this has been done in a reproducible way. But the effect is limited to the simplest of cues, lasts for only a tenth of a second or so, and has long worn off before the next visit to the supermarket.

The study is published in the magazine *Science* by Professor Anthony Greenwald and colleagues. They recruited more than 300 volunteers, who were asked to identify target words as either male or female names.



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

or as pleasant or unpleasant. The words were flashed on a computer screen one at a time, every few seconds, and the volunteers identified them by pressing a key.

Just before each word appeared on screen, the subjects were shown a subliminal message, which consisted of a meaningless string of 15 consonants, followed by a priming word, then another string of consonants. On some trials the priming and the target words agreed — they might both be female names, for example. On others, they disagreed. A female priming name might be followed by a male target name. The priming words were shown too briefly for the volunteers to be consciously aware of them. But they did have an effect on their ability to identify the target word if the volunteers were put under pressure to do so very quickly. In four tenths of a second, if they were given longer, the effect was not observed.

This shows that the priming word is influencing the process of recognising the target word, but only for a very brief period. "What we see indicates that unconscious cognition is capable of only simple mental operations compared to the powers of conscious thought," said Professor Greenwald.

"In addition," he added, "the influence of a subliminal message is fleeting, lasting only a brief flicker of time, perhaps as little as one tenth of a second." What this means is that subliminal advertising cannot sell popcorn. What a relief.

Why, simply, life begins at 256

HOW many genes does it take to sustain the simplest form of life? The human species has at a guess, 100,000 genes while the parasitic bacterium *Mycoplasma genitalium* gets by on only 468. The steady growth of completely sequenced organisms has enabled good estimates to be made, by Dr Arcady Mushegian and Dr Eugene Koonin of the US National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland.

They compared *M. genitalium* with another bacterium, *Haemophilus influenzae*, which belongs to a different bacterial lineage. The two lineages separated at least 1.5 billion years ago, so it is reasonable to assume that any genes the two have in common must be essential to the functioning of cells.

After comparing the two, they report in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* that 256 genes are "close to the minimum set necessary and sufficient to sustain the existence of a modern-type cell". This is very close to an estimate made by another method of about 250 genes. It looks as if fewer than this, and you are not alive.

The answer to a burning question

THREE undergraduates from Purdue University in Indiana have won a prize for solving the problem of what to do with birthday candles after they have been blown out. Eat them.

Adam Watkins, Amy Khal and Rahul Nair won \$5,000 for the invention of edible candles, the kind of idea that must have occurred before to some Victorian inventor. The Purdue candles are peppermint-flavoured and made from 83 per cent hydrogenated soya bean oil and 16 per cent glycerol, with the other 1 per cent coming from colouring and peppermint oil.

The candles do not drip, burn with a shorter flame and last on average 25 seconds longer than the conventional type, which generally contain paraffin. "Conventional candles are a nuisance," Mr Nair told *Chemistry in Britain*. "We wanted to make something that you didn't have to throw away, and that you wouldn't mind putting on your food." The prize came from the Indiana Soybean Development Council, to which the candles proved literally irresistible.

War of the worlds

The discovery of the distant planet Neptune 150 years ago today sparked an international row, reports Allan Chapman

When the planet Neptune was discovered 150 years ago today, it stirred more than just headlines. It became the focus of a heated international dispute, as scientists in England and in France claimed the discovery. Two centuries ago, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn — the so-called "classical" planets which had been known to the Greeks — were thought to be the only bodies circling the Sun. Then, in 1781, Sir William Herschel discovered Uranus. This seventh planet was found to be twice as far away from the Sun as Saturn, at 1,783 million miles. During the next 60 years, astronomers calculated that Uranus was straying from its expected orbit. This meant one of two things. Either Newton's Universal Laws of Gravitation were not universal, and only worked successfully out to Saturn, or there was something beyond Saturn causing a gravitational disturbance.

In the 1840s, two mathematicians — one English and one French — took up the challenge. John Couch Adams, 26, of St John's College, Cambridge, was a shy young man from Cornwall. The Frenchman was Urbain JJ. Le Verrier, 34, an already eminent scientist based in Paris.

Both men, working entirely independently, followed the same reasoning. They argued that if it could be established exactly how far Uranus had strayed from its calculated orbit over the past 60 years, then the position of the unknown planet that was disturbing it could be pinpointed. Fortunately, a detailed knowledge of Uranus's wanderings, compiled by the Greenwich and other observatories since 1781, meant that the physical data for a mathematical analysis were available. By September, 1845, Adams had computed a position for the unknown planet. He took it to James Challis, director of the Cambridge Observatory. Challis gave Adams a letter of introduction to his friend Sir George Biddell Airy, the Astronomer Royal.

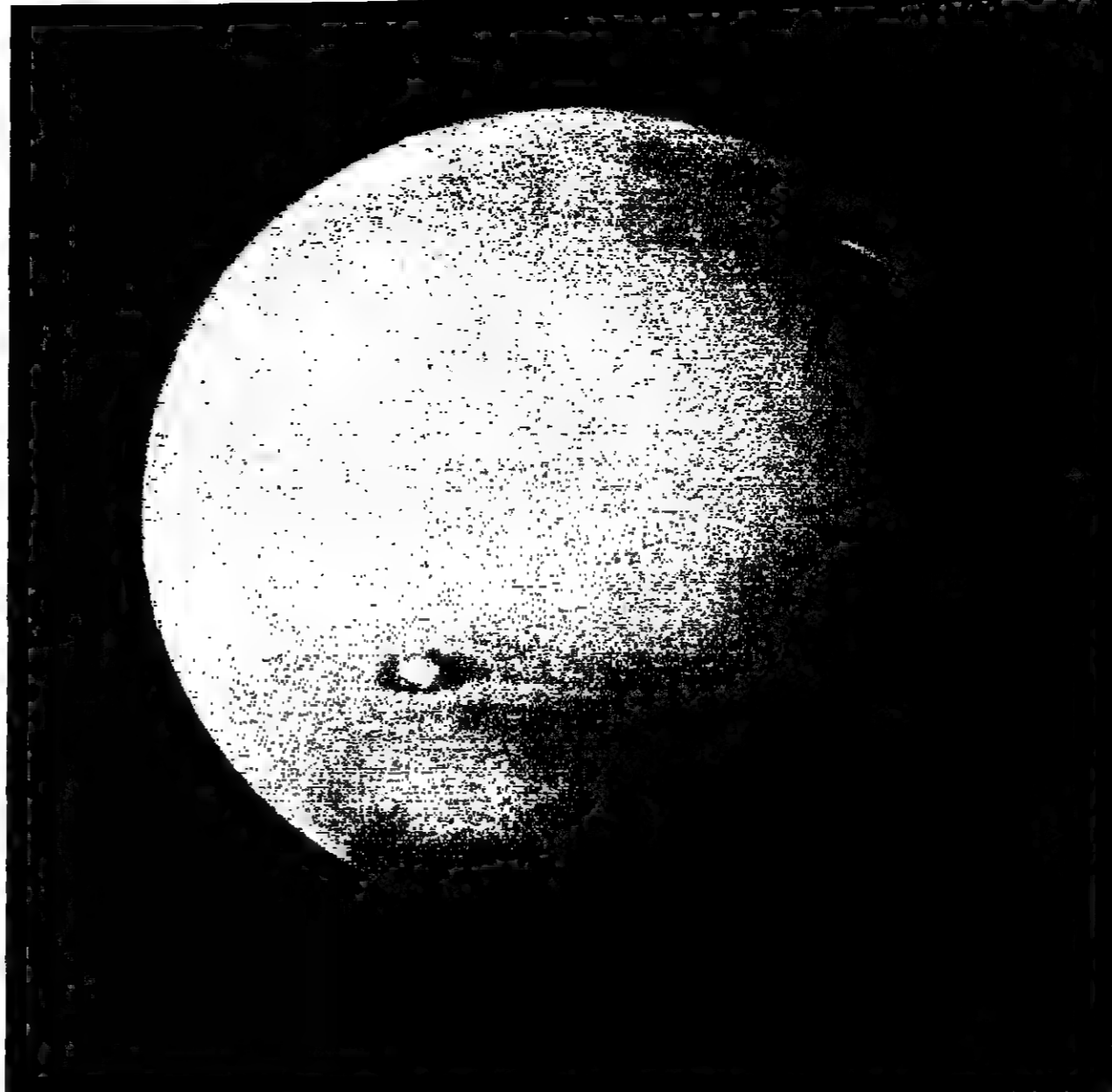
But Adams's attitude to social protocol was lax. He went to the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, without an appointment, and found that Airy was abroad.

On October 21, Adams reappeared at Greenwich, again without an appointment. The Airy family was now at dinner, and the butler would not allow his master to be disturbed. Adams left, leaving a note with his computed position for the new planet. Airy responded promptly to Mr Adams, requesting more information. Adams did not reply. It was almost a year before Adams wrote another letter to Airy, and by then Le Verrier had entered the fray.

Like Airy, Le Verrier was an efficient operator, and as soon as he had obtained his own figure for the position of the new gas giant in June 1846, he published it. Astronomers across Europe were now discussing the likely discovery of another planet.

Even to those in Cambridge, where Challis began his search, the mysterious body became known as "Le Verrier's planet" and not "Adams's planet", because Adams had never published his results or made them public. And in 1846, just like today, it was through publication that one staked a claim.

Finding that the Paris Observatory would not point a powerful telescope to the part of the sky — in the constellation of Capricorn — in which his computed planet lay, Le Verrier wrote to colleagues in Berlin on September 18. Five days later, two Berlin astron-



Neptune's existence was calculated mathematically by John Couch Adams using aberrations in the orbit of Uranus

mers, Galle and d'Arrest, believed that they had spied a small, dim body which appeared on no existing astronomical chart. The discovery was confirmed on the next night, when they saw that over 24 hours it had moved in the way that planets do but stars do not. They announced their results on September 25.

The news reached London on September 30, and on October 1, *The Times* published the discovery of the planet, soon to be named Neptune. William Lassell, an amateur astronomer from Liverpool who owned the most powerful telescope in England at the time, saw Neptune on October 2, and went on to discover its largest satellite (later named Triton) on the tenth. But nowhere did poor Adams's name appear.

Not until October 3 did Adams find a champion, when Sir John Herschel, son of William, published a letter staking a prior claim for Cambridge. Then the affair ignited. The French accused the English of inventing Adams's claim because they were jealous of the Franco-German discovery. The English blamed Airy and Challis for failing to pursue Adams's figures a year before.

Airy argued, cogently, that he had been dissatisfied with Adams's incomplete figures and the lack of explanation as to how they had been derived. Airy was a government scientist, and it was not his job to check a private individual's supposed discovery, though he would have been willing to get Adams's results published.

It could all have been so different had Adams been admitted to the Airy dinner table on October 21, 1845. So why was he not? Recent research has shown that on that

night, Mrs Richards Airy, the Astronomer Royal's wife, was close to giving birth to their ninth child, and had a history of difficult pregnancies.

Secondly, Airy had just been informed of a scandalous murder committed by William Richardson, a senior astronomer at the Greenwich Observatory. Richardson had fathered a child by his own daughter, and the pair of them had murdered the baby. Their arrest was the latest news. What with government work, a wife about to go into labour, and a lurid murder on his hands, one can appreciate how the young Cambridge graduate who could not even reply to letters failed to grab Airy's attention.

In time, the scientific world, recognising that the discovery confirming Newton's Laws of Gravitation owed much to many, gave equal credit to Adams and Le Verrier. And when the two men met, in the summer of 1847, their mutual admiration sealed the peace.

Dr Allan Chapman is an historian of science at Wadham College, Oxford.

The French accused the English of invention

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GREEN GIANT

NEPTUNE, the eighth planet in our solar system, is 30 times farther from the Sun than Earth, completing an orbit every 165 years. It weighs as much as 17 Earths, and has a diameter of more than 50,000km.

The first close-up look, by Voyager 2 in 1989, showed Neptune as a green disc, the colour stemming from the methane within its atmosphere.

The planet has eight moons. The two biggest, Triton and Nereid, were observed from Earth and the others were discovered during the Voyager 2 fly-by. The spacecraft also discovered Neptune's rings, four thin belts of material encircling the planet. Two are named after Le Verrier and Adams.

ADVERTISEMENT

Scientists claim breakthrough in zero-gravity sminting

By IAN MODAIRE

the humming birds could achieve a state of complete weightlessness. In other words, they could float. Even more sensational, this experiment has now been carried out on humans; some as heavy as 30 stone.

Leaked photographs taken "somewhere in England" show Russian volunteers floating at least 15 feet in the air and being secured by fishing lines. Professor Hatt explains: "At first, it was a bit tricky with the humans, especially the overweight Russian volunteers. We had to subject them to continuous sminting before we saw any effect."

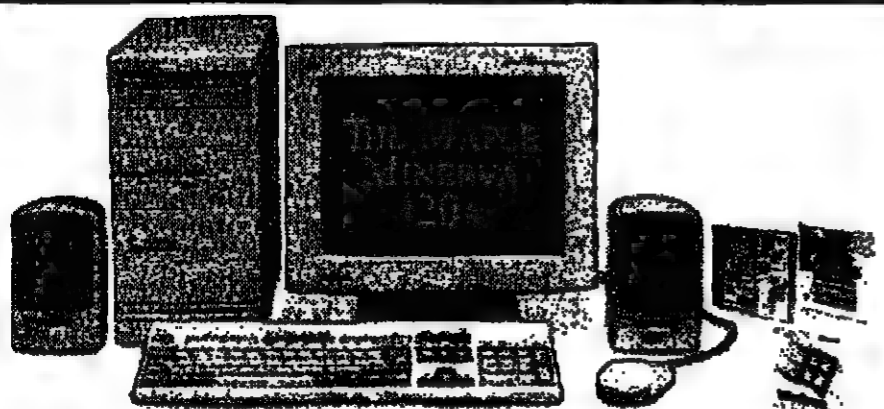
But once we got the dose right, we had them floating on air for up to an hour at a time."

PHYSICISTS in Cambridge are close to solving the bizarre and baffling phenomenon of zero gravity sminting. A team led by Professor Albert E. Hatt, has been operating with scientists from both the USA and Russia to determine the effects of zero gravity sminting on humming birds.

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Sharp practice at the Foreign Office

Dame Pauline Neville-Jones, formerly Britain's top female diplomat, talks for the first time about why she resigned. Interview by Sandra Parsons

The assumption, I tell her, is — to use the argot — that she was stitched up. "Stitched up," she muses, in the general direction of the patio garden. "Hm-mm." She gives an enigmatic smile and bends her head to examine her pink varnished nails, a gesture which may — or may not — be taken to be a nod. One would expect no less discretion from a woman who, until February this year, was Britain's most senior female diplomat.

The demise of her high-flying career took almost a year to reach its inglorious denouement. At the age of 56, she had for more than two years held the most influential post at the Foreign Office, that of political director. She was effectively ousted by being refused the plum posting many felt her service, intellect and experience merited — Ambassador to Paris. Instead, she was offered Bonn, more than a year hence, by which time the Government might have changed. It was therefore an uncertain prospect. In the meantime her request to be promoted, from a Grade 2 to Grade 1 (the position held by the Ambassadors to Paris, Bonn, Washington and Moscow) was refused.

It was a superlative endgame by the Foreign Office, Dame Pauline, however, was not easy to crack. She is, after all, the woman who led the British delegation at the Bosnian peace talks, served in Rhodesia during the Unilateral Declaration of Independence, in Washington during Watergate, as Deputy Ambassador in Bonn during unification, and, in 1993, just before she was made political director, enjoyed a brief spell of notoriety as the first woman head of the Joint Intelligence Committee. "I have got a pretty high threshold for stress, but dealing with a personal problem is a quite different kind of stress. I was determined not to panic."

John Major made a half-hearted rescue attempt by offering her a job with him.

Dame Pauline Neville-Jones, formerly Britain's top female diplomat, talks for the first time about why she resigned. Interview by Sandra Parsons

"He very kindly contrived to do something, but it was late on in the game and the job he offered was not as high-powered as it was painted." She turned it down. She was "very pleased" when he then made her a Dame in the New Year's Honours List. Her Foreign Office enemies were not. The next day, the hostile leaks to national newspapers began.

The first an unassuming public received was a report in *The Times* on January 3. Headlined "Undiplomatic", it reported that the most senior woman in the Foreign Office was on the point of leaving. She had turned down the chance to become British Ambassador to Bonn, furious that she had not been offered Paris. Her resignation a month later was covered by almost every newspaper.

Her only previous encounter with the press had been when she was made head of the Joint Intelligence Committee. She was described then as a high-flyer who was "shrewd, quick and vivacious, with a penetrating analytical intelligence".

This time, the largely non-attributable briefings from her colleagues had an altogether more sinister ring.

The trouble, senior diplomats were quoted as saying, was that she was "strong-willed and abrasive". She was clever, yes, but perhaps not a top-drawer brain. Her staff found her intimidating. Her manner was not "sufficiently emollient for the niceties of diplomatic life".

Dame Pauline is a seasoned diplomat and the sort of woman whose professional implacability could, you feel, withstand anything from a troublesome local incident to full-blown war. But she was unprepared for an assault on the home front, and shocked in the way only the straight-

expect was a nice career in personnel, she chose the Foreign Office, even though it then required women to resign upon marriage.

Although that rule was changed in 1972, when she was 33, Dame Pauline has never married. One might conclude that she has been betrayed by the career to which she gave the best years of her life but today, with a new job at NatWest that earns her almost three times more than her £70,000 Foreign Office salary, she is adamant that she sacrificed nothing.

"I chose the Foreign Office and I don't regret it. On the question of my not marrying, it's very hard to say how much is me and how much of it my job. I think in the end it's probably me. I was proposed to once but I just knew it wasn't right, so I wasn't emotionally cut up. That would be one of the things that would scare me most, to marry out of panic."

I did come close once. I was in my thirties, but I suppose I wasn't that overwhelmingly convinced that this was it. I do think that probably it would have affected my career, but I don't think I shied off because of that. I think somehow we just realised it wasn't going to work.

"I have certainly had close relationships since then, but one way or another they haven't got to that point. There have been one or two where I have been fairly upset that it hasn't worked. But you recover. I have been in love and I would like to get married. I have never at any stage decided either that I definitely won't, or that I must."

"People have told me they find me impenetrable; I don't reveal a lot on the surface. The claim has been made that men are frightened of me."

She insists she is not lonely. "You are aware of other people's family life and obviously one of the things you don't have is children. I never had that longing for a child. It was one of the things that I did worry about, whether I would feel there was a great part of me that was missing. I think had I got married that might have been stimulated."

She loves gardening, cooking and antiques. Birthdays are celebrated with friends, Christmas with her mother in Yorkshire. And then there is her new job: head of global business strategy at NatWest Markets, as high-powered as it gets and free of Civil Service pettifoggery restrictions.

Although "sadder and wiser", she is resolutely philosophical. "I don't want to believe it was all deliberately schemed. There's absolutely no point in being angry or embittered about things, because there's only one person hurt by that, and that's yourself. Systems don't care, they march on."

'I can't think it was anything other than deliberate'

She had suspected for some time that they were out to get her. Only after her appointment to political director did it transpire that the job was not the one she thought she had applied for. It had been reduced in power and scope, so that she had less authority than her counterparts in other foreign ministries. "I thought that was sharp practice. I can't think it was anything other than deliberate, but I don't know why they did it."

For one so intelligent, she is endearingly obtuse about admitting what is clearly the point: the Establishment does not warm to successful women, particularly if they are clever, attractive, and independent. "But I don't want to believe that it was because I was a woman," she says.

Her mother Dr Celia Winn, a retired consultant anaesthetist, has no such qualms. "If you hit a glass ceiling, maybe you just have to move," she said at the time.

Part of the problem was that although her career took her into the heart of the Establishment, Dame Pauline was never really part of it. Her mother, father (who was killed in the Second World War, in North Africa, when she was two) and stepfather were all doctors. She grew up in Leeds and won a scholarship to Oxford, where she read history. Afterwards she wanted to go into industry, but when several big companies told her all she could



Dame Pauline was stunned. "When a woman is in favour, she's called formidable. When she is out, she's strong-willed"

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Starting today, the remarkable diaries of **George Urban**, one of Margaret Thatcher's



Day of dissent: those present at the secret seminar on Germany at Chequers, when Margaret Thatcher gave warning that it might not be long before the "unreliable" Germans would turn their economic might into political power

I was amazed ... her views weren't that different from Alf Garnett

George Urban, the former Director-General of Radio Free Europe, which was established to broadcast to countries behind the Iron Curtain, was invited to join Margaret Thatcher's private band of policy advisers in 1981. She consulted him on foreign policy speeches and diplomatic initiatives for more than a decade, during which he kept a detailed

DIPLOMACY AND DISILLUSION

diary. For the first time, he reveals how his admiration for her turned to disillusionment.

January 25, 1981

Yesterday's working lunch with Margaret Thatcher at Chequers was my first personal contact with the Prime Minister. My first impres-

sions: she is much softer and more feminine than I gathered from her appearances on television — a man's woman in slow decline. Even her voice struck me as low-key and inoffensive. She was friendly without being overwhelming, courteous, and inquisitive only within the limits of a warming-up session. In other words:

a model hostess. I took to her instantly.

I left feeling that this highly intelligent, well-informed and resolute lady would make mincemeat of the American leadership. What a pleasure to see a person of ideas in charge of declining Britain!

September 18-19, 1983

MT also impressed me as a lady of considerable learning. She is up to date on the latest

literature on political theory, military, economic and social affairs. The PM even threw a quotation at me from *Antigone* — and she was excusing herself that she could no longer remember it in Greek.

My impression is that some of her increasingly numerous contacts with intellectuals have more than a practical purpose: she may be working on her image in history as a great stateswoman surrounded and respected by the leading brains of her time.

of the House and Deputy Prime Minister.

She then launched into German reunification. Here I found an unexpected ally in David Willets (CPS Director of Studies). David said he thought unification would be a good thing; true, it had to be done circumspectly, but it was, in any case, unstoppable: at

divided country, still controlled by the postwar arrangements. She came back to the point again and again that we had, in the four-power Berlin Agreement, a perfectly valid international instrument. This could, in her interpretation, be used by the four victorious powers to retain certain rights, and these could

man) and I tried to put in a corrective: "My impression has been," Hugh said, "that Nato and our defences have been created because we were threatened by the Soviet Union. Have we switched enemies?"

"As soon as the Germans have fully recovered, they will reassert their hegemonic interests throughout Eastern Europe," she went on. I was distressed and so, I noticed, was Thomas.

The PM observed: "With the Central European countries reasserting their independence and all the ancient feuds and territorial disputes resurfacing, we may be going back to the state of affairs preceding the First World War."

I find the PM's sentiments narrow-gauged in the extreme. No sooner did Soviet power hit the rocks than she and her friends returned to the scenes of old mischief. They are in search of a new enemy.

But I will now record something I would have said to the PM very privately had there been an opportunity. The plain truth is that Margaret Thatcher is in many respects too good for Britain... She is cut out to be the leader of a nation with the thrift and work ethic of Japan, Germany, Switzerland, Taiwan, perhaps even the US, where her vision, resolve and free-market enthusiasm would produce lasting results.



Urban, far right, at a reception held by Mrs Thatcher

which the PM threw up her hands in horror: "No, not at all." It was clear that she was hostile to the whole idea on the ground of a rather old-fashioned nationalism. I was amazed to hear her uttering views about people and countries, especially Germany, which were not all that different from the Alf Garnett version of history.

The PM is extremely reluctant to see Germany assume a role other than that of a

be enforced in an emergency. I found this preposterous and a prescription for disaster.

"You know, George," the PM said, coming close to me, "there are things that people of your generation and mine ought never to forget. We've been through the war and we know perfectly well what the Germans are like, and what dictators can do, and what national character doesn't basically change..." and so on.

Hugh Thomas (CPS chair-

October 19, 1984

"How do you see the situation in Germany?" she asked.

"Behind the backs of the Soviets, German unification is in fact quietly happening apace through a fast-growing number of economic ties, personal contacts and, of course, through the exceptional status German Democratic Republic exports enjoy on the markets of the EEC. We can already talk of a latent form of German unification."

"What's so latent about it?" the PM asked. "We have known all about it for a long time, and we'd better be on our guard." This, and her tone, surprised me. I had expected that drawing East Germany into the Western orbit by stealth, as it were, would meet with her approval.

To balance her suspicions, I then told the PM that the German people were especially impressed by her record. They liked a clear-headed leader. They admired the way in which she dealt with the unions, her resolve to restore British sovereignty in the Falklands, and, in the last week, her unflappability after the Brighton bombing.

I could still sense animus. I mentioned the centrality of Germany to all our concerns and the great financial contribution the Germans have made to European unification. This did not go down well, either. "They have been simply paying reparations for all the things they did during the war."

She said later: "You know I never believed that German nationalism was dead. Nor did I believe that it would be dormant for a long time. I always thought that when the next German generation were old enough to think and lead the country, the drive to reunite Germany would be there again. But we don't want that because there is no question that if the Germans were reunited they would, once again, dominate the whole of Europe." I found the strength of her views on Europe and Germany disturbing.

December 19, 1989

The occasion, on the previous day, December 18, was the Prime Minister's lunch for members of the board of directors of the Centre for Policy Studies. We were having drinks when the PM joined us accompanied by Geoffrey Howe (then Leader

THE TIMES

TOMORROW

FEATURE FOOTBALL

A special adviser's account of life inside the court of Margaret Thatcher

Touch at the Bellamy: Sonnet, Saturday, 10.00, Southampton away, 12.00, 1.00, 2.00, 3.00, 4.00, 5.00, 6.00, 7.00, 8.00, 9.00, 10.00, 11.00, 12.00, 1.00, 2.00, 3.00, 4.00, 5.00, 6.00, 7.00, 8.00, 9.00, 10.00, 11.00, 12.00

ITV

The ultimate football challenge: Manchester United vs. Liverpool, 12.00, 1.00, 2.00, 3.00, 4.00, 5.00, 6.00, 7.00, 8.00, 9.00, 10.00, 11.00, 12.00

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CHANGING TIMES

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close advisers. Part One: the Prime Minister's growing anxiety over German unification

Germany: how we were misrepresented by the Downing Street memo

March 25, 1990

An all-day seminar yesterday on Germany, at Chequers, at the invitation of the Prime Minister.

Those present were Margaret Thatcher and Douglas Hurd, Foreign Secretary, from the United States, two distinguished historians: Gordon Craig and Fritz Stern; on our side Lord Dacre of Clontarf (Hugh Trevor-Roper), Timothy Garton Ash and Norman Stone from Oxford, and myself. The Prime Minister was assisted by Charles Powell, her foreign policy adviser and factotum at No 10.

MT took the chair and opened the discussion. We would, she said, first talk about the historical background of Germany and the reliability of Germany as a future partner in Europe: to what extent was Germany, through its economic might, likely to become a politically over-powerful and perhaps even aggressive factor? And she made no secret of her conviction that Germany was historically a dangerous power, not only because of the First and Second World Wars, but because of the sheer size of her population, the diligence and discipline of her people, the unreliability (as she called it) of the German character, the likelihood of Germany embracing another "mission" in Europe and so on. In other words, it was fairly obvious from the moment she began speaking that her gut reactions were anti-German.

But the PM did not harangue us. She appeared to be genuinely anxious to find out what all these "distinguished" observers and historians had to tell her. My impression is that she rather expected our group to endorse her anti-Teutonic preconceptions, and that she probably invited the two Americans with that idea especially in mind.

MT could have been in no doubt about the attitudes of Trevor-Roper, Stone and myself — three out of six. I should imagine she assumed that the Americans and perhaps Garton Ash would take a more sceptical view. Not so. There was surprise in the air when, starting with Gordon Craig, followed by Trevor-Roper and then Fritz Stern, we all came up with analyses I would roughly summarise like this: while the "German mind" (if there is such a thing) is spiritually and intellectually

not always easy to fathom, the Federal Republic has given a splendid account of its ability to run not only a democratic system, but a liberal democratic system at that, with a strong element of social responsibility and institutional guarantees built into it. These could not be easily circumvented by a future extremist party or a dictator.

Our general conclusion was that, while a certain amount of caution is always very much in order in politics, this is a Germany "worthy" of British trust (I found the condescending tone quite intolerable).

Listening to us, the PM remained diplomatic but unconvinced, firing questions at us to express her deep doubts. We answered with courtesy and in impeccably scholarly terms. Procedurally, of course, we all deferred to her because she was in the chair, she was the Prime Minister, and our hosts. We didn't interrupt her interjections, which were many, although she frequently cut into our words — but that again is a Prime Minister's privilege.

There were no rows or even "words". But stage by stage, it emerged clearly enough that, collectively, we had very different views from those she was entertaining and especially those she had, damagingly enough, put on the record since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

It was fairly obvious that, in his bones, the Foreign Secretary was on our side of the argument.

Before lunch, I said to him, standing some distance away from the rest of the group: "Well, it seems we are going to have quite a bit of an argument because some of our views on Germany are clearly not in line with those of the Prime Minister." Hurd answered rather quietly: "Don't let that worry you. We have already worked on her and she is changing. Speak your mind absolutely freely

FACE TO FACE AT CHEQUERS

because that's what we're here for, and she would like to hear your and every one else's criticisms if that is what they are going to be." And, of course, we did just that.

At the end of a long day MT said: "Very well, very well, I am outnumbered round this table. I promise you that I shall be sweet to the Germans,

self as a visionary stateswoman with a world-view, and Kohl the *wurst-eating*, corpulent, plodding Teuton, has a long history in MT's imagination. Kohl's effectiveness in Europe was, she thought, due purely to the money in his pocket and the respect money commanded in the world (could this be wrong for a true Thatcherite?). And she was wondering how long it would be before German economic might were translated into political power — in which case she felt Germany would have won the Second World War, because what "the Germans" could not attain by force of arms "the Germans" would now be attaining by economic clout. I was appalled. Were these the views of a responsible Prime Minister?

Throughout these exchanges, it became more and more obvious that MT's status in her own eyes as the repository of truth and rectitude had grown enormously since my first meetings with her in 1981 and 1982. She had become a lady of overweening self-confidence and self-importance, particularly, I should imagine, in her dealings with her inferiors in the bureaucracy and her colleagues in the Cabinet; and there are signs that this is being increasingly resented. How long will it be before opposition within the party erupts (it is already there) and threatens her leadership?

As we were walking out to



Urban was shocked by the PM's views

sweet to Helmut [Kohl, the German Chancellor] when he comes next week, but I shall not be defeated. I shall be sweet to him but I will uphold my principles."

It was depressing to see that her attitude to the whole problem of Germany was so much that of a novice, despite the learned books she had ostentatiously piled up in front of her on the seminar table.

The contrast between her

get into our cars. Stone, Garton Ash and I huddled together. It was remarkable, we said, that our consensus should have developed quite independently. We were not in any way close friends — yet we all came to the same sort of conclusion: the PM's "instincts" were extremely wide of the mark. Craig and Stern said they were thrilled by the invitation. No American President since Kennedy would have had either the intellectual curiosity to enlist the views of scholars, or the ability to debate with them as an equal. They were too right, MT is a great lady even when she is dead wrong.

On July 15, 1990, almost four months after our meeting, the *Independent on Sunday* published Powell's "confidential memorandum" on our discussion. It was an astounding document — not so much for what it actually reported (though what it did was in many places inaccurate enough), but for its unashamedly anti-German flavour.

July 20, 1990
Charles Powell's version of what was said and concluded at Chequers is very much at odds with what actually happened. I was extremely upset. So, as I soon discovered, were the other British participants. Three years later, in October 1993, in Berlin, Lord Dacre asked me: "Have you done anything about the way we have been misrepresented in Charles Powell's memorandum? I haven't, but we should. I'm deeply embarrassed when German friends ask me: 'Do you really hold those views?'"

● Diplomacy and Disillusion at the Court of Margaret Thatcher, by George Urban, is published tomorrow by I.B. Tauris. To order a copy through The Times Bookshop telephone 0345 60916. Discount price £18.95, inc. postage.



Thatcher the patriot she became a lady of overweening self-importance, says Urban

TOMORROW

Margaret Thatcher: Why I am not a conservative

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■ THEATRE

Diana Rigg and David Suchet ask *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* at the Almeida
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



■ DANCE

A Duke Ellington score provides the music for David Bintley's new *Nutcracker Sweeties*
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday



■ OPERA

Anne Sofie von Otter stars in a concert performance of *Werther* at the Barbican
CONCERT: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday

OPERA: Rodney Milnes on the Royal Opera's revival of Richard Jones's controversial *Ring* staging



John Tomlinson as Wotan in Jones's production: "What could be all too easily forgotten after two years amid the continuing argy-bargy was the clarity and simplicity of this *Rheingold*. There is comparatively little visual distraction"

So what was all the fuss about? The Richard Jones-Nigel Lowery *Ring* production has been one of the great operatic controversies for two years now, with opposing sides becoming ever more deeply entrenched, hard words exchanged, friendships terminated, marriages threatened — I exaggerate, of course, but only slightly. The operatic fraternity is split right down the middle, and the only point on which all agree is that there has been nothing quite like it before: it is fresh, original and — I think — quite wonderful as far as this expository Prologue is concerned.

It is only sad that the first complete cycles are so far spaced out, and we have to wait for ten

days for the next instalment. This is a marketing disadvantage, too, since visitors from outside London can't catch the first two cycles within a week (attending *Rings* is some people's idea of a holiday). What could be all too easily forgotten after two years amid the continuing argy-bargy was the clarity and simplicity of this *Rheingold*. There is comparatively little visual distraction: each stage of the ethico-political power game is conveyed through the singers, and through their and Jones's

vivid, detailed response to the text. This *Rheingold* really is directed, and directed on notes, words and people. All right, there are those gold shoes representing Alberich's horde, and I still don't quite understand the jumbo jet, but in the context of the whole such symbols are less puzzling or distracting than they were. It's good to be reminded where Brünnhilde's famous paper bag came from — Nibelheim.

And, since his productions are living organisms rather than some-

thing set in stone, Jones has changed details and clarified a number of points. The *Strictly Ballroom* Erda works far better: she is "placed" earlier, and is sung (by Catherine Wyn-Rogers, very well) on stage rather than from the wings — all gain. Her intimacy with Wotan should be no surprise: she is, after all, about to bear him

nine children (or is it just one? Wagnerians can't agree). A minor adjustment to Wotan's costume (short sleeves) subtly changes his character, and as sung by John Tomlinson (in stentorian form) he is even less someone you would want to meet on a dark night.

The greatest change comes with the new Loge, Philip Langridge. Rather anonymous last time, Loge is now a sleazy, gum-chewing spiv with an Artur English pencil-line moustache and slouch hat on the back of his head. That may not

sound like everyone's idea of a Nordic deity, but Langridge's impersonation is one of dazzling, understated wit and, it goes without saying, bewitchingly well sung. There are new Giants in Peter Rose and Matthias Hölle, both excellent, and I love the roly-poly, Rubensesque Rhinemaidens, Jane Henschel (Fricka) and Ekkehard Wlaschka (the Max Wall-style Alberich) are as compelling as before.

The grotesquerie of the mythical figures is thrown into sharp relief

by the elements, those still, calm observers who represent the waters of the Rhine, the natural world despoiled. The final image remains both exhilarating and numbing: the gods in full evening dress stumble over the giant's corpse to chase hysterically after the elusive star of Valhalla, while a single blue dancer-wave in an attitude of utter despair slides upside down into a crevice. This is a blindingly true response to Wagner's vision.

Haitink's conducting seems marginally flatter than before, just as evenly paced, and just as achingly tender in its treatment of the music for the principle of human love heedlessly jettisoned in the power game. The orchestral playing, so clear, so liquidly expressive, is superb.

Nothing quite like it

Das Rheingold
Covent Garden

Fine talent lost in the remix

COMING from a background in contemporary dance, Alison Limerick emerged on record through the crossover club hit *Where Love Lives* in 1991. An album followed the next year, by which time a reputation as a vocalist of substance and style was established. The same year saw her first Top 20 success with another beat-filled pop entry, *Make It On My Own*.

But the next three years brought declining chart success, and this summer Limerick found that all her moves on pop's snakes and ladders board had landed her back at square one. In a spurious and increasingly familiar marketing tactic, her career has been resurrected by remixes.

Thus *Where Love Lives*, rejigged by the pre-eminent DJs of the day, roared to the Top Ten in July, and two weeks ago *Make It On My Own* was dressed up in new clothes for another shallow revival. While Limerick may yet be able to use their reappearance to jump-start her career, the chief beneficiaries of such vacuous retooling are likely, as usual, to be the remixers and not the artist.

None of which would be

POP

Alison Limerick
Jazz Café, NW1

particular cause for indignation if Limerick were not such a capable vocal artist, as she showed at the Jazz Café. Dovetailing with backing vocalists Blue and Sophia Jones and a well-drilled band, she showed herself quite conversant in soul and funk idioms with *No Way Out* and the new composition *No Pain, No Gain*, recalling the serpentine 1970s grooves of the Ohio Players. With her shaven head and snake hips, she could almost have come straight from one of their famous album covers.

Significantly, her performance of *Where Love Lives* accentuated the soulful qualities of the song rather than playing up its undoubted floor-filling capabilities. All she needs to do is perfect a more confident stage persona — and survive the shameless hawking of her vocal assets.

PAUL SEXTON

MUSIC: Gerald Larner on the Leeds Piano Competition; plus, the LSO

Winners all round

The Leeds International Piano Competition has produced some outstandingly successful second and third-prize winners in previous years. Mitsuko Uchida and Andras Schiff (both of whom were placed behind Dmitri Alexeev in 1975) being the most encouraging examples. So there is no reason why Aleksandar Madzar, the third-prize winner but also the most imaginative musician among the 1996 finalists, should not have an interesting career ahead of him.

A 28-year-old Yugoslav who lists György Kurtág among his teachers, Madzar was the one who chose not to play Rachmaninov. He offered a highly intelligent and at times positively inspired

interpretation of Prokofiev's Third Piano Concerto, touching sounds which were not only thrilling in themselves, like his spine-chilling pianissimos in the second movement, but which were also most sensitively calculated in blend and balance with the orchestra — which, with minimum rehearsal time in the notoriously awkward acoustic of Leeds Town Hall, is no small achievement, even with partners as sympathetic as Sir Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

The consolation for those who want to hear more of Madzar is that he was one of two finalists to be awarded a Naxos prize. The other Naxos CD contract went to Ilya Itin, the 29-year-old Russian who

was declared overall winner by the Leeds jury and who was also (and mysteriously) given the Contemporary Music Prize.

A pianist of formidable accomplishment, Itin was one of three finalists who chose to play Rachmaninov's *Paganini Rhapsody* and the only one who did not falter. He was also the only one with the breadth of technique and the sheer physical strength to do justice to large-scale Rachmaninov. The second-prize winner, the 26-year-old Italian Roberto Cominati, gave an elegant but lightweight account of the Second Piano Concerto in C minor.

With no British pianist in the final, the audience seems to have attached itself to Sa Chen, the 17-year-old citizen of the People's Republic of China who also endeared herself to the TV millions by handing her bouquets to Rattle and the CBSO leader. She came to Leeds with little knowledge of Western culture and, after playing the *Paganini Rhapsody* with admirable skill and enviable naturalness, was awarded fourth prize.

Fifth prize went to the 28-year-old Armenian, Armen Babakhanian, who offered a contrastingly mannered interpretation of the same work; the sixth went to the 20-year-old Israeli, Ekaterina Apikisheva, who gave an attractively coloured performance of the Piano Concerto in C minor.

With no British pianist in the final, the audience seems

Hot passion and the chill hand of terror

LSO/Rostropovich
Barbican

rapturous playing of the highest technical order.

As its subtitle "The Year 1905" suggests, Shostakovich's Eleventh Symphony recalls the January uprising of that year and its brutal suppression by tsarist forces. The icy, sustained chords of the opening Adagio represent the deserted square in front of the St Petersburg Winter Palace, while the savage massacre is graphically portrayed in the tumultuous second movement. Or is it? The Eleventh Symphony

was written in the aftermath of the Hungarian uprising of 1956 and we now know that the violent repression depicted in it was read by some in the first audience as an indictment of brutality closer to home.

Terror is the underlying state of mind in the Allegro sections of that second movement, and Rostropovich and his forces captured that emotion with alarming immediacy. The frosty sonorities of the first movement suggested, in this context, a more abstract, universal message, while the third movement Adagio, in *Memorial*, sang eloquently of the pain deep in the Russian soul.

Shostakovich's celebrations of the Bolshevik risings were genuine enough, if overlaid, in symphonies such as the Eleventh, with despair at how they were later betrayed. Rostropovich's hell-for-leather account of the finale, with the superb LSO in full cry, captured to perfection the rich ambiguities of this extraordinary work.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Bebop with gypsy guitar

JAZZ

Spirit of Django
Ronnie Scott's,
Birmingham

SOME bands need a set or two to play themselves into their best form, but Martin Taylor's acoustic group, based on a modified Hot Club of France format, opened their first set of a four-night residency at Ronnie Scott's with such precision, attack and bite that they might have been nearing the end of a two-hour concert. Taylor's incisive guitar, with the metallic timbre of the best gypsy players, combines with Dave O'Higgins's saxophones and Jack Embury's accordion and Jack Embury's accordion to give the band a characteristically bright melodic line over the insistent rhythm of John Goldie, Terry Gregory and Taylor's son, James.

Some of the set was built around Taylor's new album, *Years Apart* (on which he teamed up again with his long-term former boss, Stephane Grappelli), but the band dug back to its formative days for numbers dating from its soundtracks to the Nicole and Papa car ads, easily evoking a French ambience.

Taylor won over his talkative audience with all the guile of a gypsy guitarist, clambering up through successive key changes on *I Can't Give You Anything But Love*, and including a medley of Romany tunes. It takes supreme self-confidence to lower the bass strings of the guitar while playing, but Taylor, swapping anxious grins with his band, wound down his E string on the gypsy tune *Cardas*, before setting off at a gallop on the upper strings in a whirling gypsy dance.

Had he lived, Django Reinhardt would surely have approved of Taylor's music. Reinhardt embraced the am-

plified guitar well in advance of most of his gypsy colleagues, and he welcomed the newer harmonies of bebop with such aplomb that when he arrived in America in 1946, his first question was "Where's Dizzy?"

Taylor has extended the direction Reinhardt was taking in the early 1950s, and his neat arrangements combine half-step alternations between phrases and passing chord substitutions with riffs that never compromise the integrity of the Hot Club sound. In O'Higgins, Taylor has a soloist who shows how effortlessly the language of post-bop playing combines with the gypsy tradition, while Embury's nimble and provocative accordion solos prove that there genuinely is life after *Sing Something Simple*.

ALYN SHIPTON

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Matthew Parris



■ They all believe in The Global Economy — but behind each party, ancient and opposing forces are at work

When I was a boy studying the British constitution, one examination question was virtually standard: *There is no longer any major difference between the main parties — discuss.*

It was the late 1960s. Harold Macmillan's Government had given way (after Sir Alec Douglas-Home) to Harold Wilson's. Differences existed between the parties and Mr Wilson was to become personally controversial, but the divisiveness centred more on questions of competence and leadership: was Wilson, Douglas-Home or Ted Heath most fit to run a "mixed economy"?

That the governance of Britain was about the competent management of a mixed economy was hardly questioned. This, we were sure, was the way all the free-world governments in Europe were going. The Scandinavians were much admired, and Willi Brandt was soon to lead Germany in a similar direction. The prevailing wisdom considered a capitalist and unregulated free market to be primitive and outdated, and Marxism-Leninism unacceptably repressive.

Thinking people were misleadingly agreed on a middle way: a partly market, partly State-controlled economy, in which a dynamic State regulated business, channelled investment and would eventually control prices and income. Government would direct the national effort in economic and social affairs.

We were optimistic about welfare. The status of the social worker was high and growing; much, it was thought, could be achieved by enlightened state help and (sometimes) coercion.

It was not the End of History, because the great clash between East and West rumbled around the horizon. But among men and women of intelligence and goodwill — sensible people, nice people — there was consensus on the big questions. Political parties' platforms reflected it. Western Europe was nearing the End of Ideology; that, at any rate, was what it was fashionable to believe, and — absurd though it appears with hindsight — it was very compelling.

It was, or seemed to be, common sense. Little did we realise that beneath the apparent consensus, huge, ancient and opposing forces were still at work. Their battle lay more than a decade ahead.

I see the fashion is coming around again. This time the common sense is different. It is that the coercive State is ineffective; that the small battalions of communities, agencies, charities, local authorities, must be nurtured; that the great levers of economic management hardly lie within a Chancellor's grasp today, and that questions of growth, employment,

A delusion: temporary orthodoxy posing as common sense

interest rates and business management fall increasingly under the spell of something just arrived, called The Global Economy; as if nations did not trade and the Earth was not round.

One would not accuse Tony Blair, Libby Purves, Peter Riddell or Simon Jenkins of following fashion; to a degree they help to create it. But when Miss Purves celebrates the end of "isms", Mr Riddell finds Chancellor of all parties the prisoner of modern realities; Mr Jenkins supposes Mr Blair's and Mr Major's philosophies so similar that debate should give way to chat; Mr Blair thinks that to snap "We're not going back to the past" is an adequate response to great, enduring moral and practical questions about workers' rights to collective action, or public control of monopoly utilities... then I sense the outbreak of a delusion as old as history: temporary orthodoxy posing as common sense.

"Budgets," my friend Simon Briscoe, UK economist at Nikko Europe, writes in *The Independent* "will be increasingly incremental in the years ahead... they will rarely contain any measures that alter the big picture."

This is all very comforting, particularly to Mr Blair. The band he should have joined in youth might have been not Ugly Rumours but Status Quo. Unable to provide the moral argument for the status quo, and nervous about ugly rumours that some of his party do not like the status quo, Mr Blair has every interest in persuading us that a Labour Prime Minister would be "in any event" a prisoner of the status quo and of his time.

All prime ministers are buffeted by events larger than they can control. So are skippers in storms. But you can still steer your ship on to or off the rocks. We steer not only by charts but by instinct. I am prepared to believe that to "new" Labour, to the Liberal Democrats and to the Conservative Party, the charts now look more similar than in the past.

Some of the instincts, however, remain profoundly different. Some of the rocks, far from having been made safe by "ideology-free" methods of modern navigation, remain what they were: the old, hard questions.

Messrs Major, Blair and Ashdown may seem alike in their moderation and their amiability; but behind each, huge, ancient and opposing forces are at work: forces of class, of interest and of belief. Beneath the apparent similarities of the three sanitised party conferences whose season starts today, those forces are still there: still opposed, still and forever — pace Purves, Jenkins, Blair, Riddell and Briscoe — unresolved.

If there are more cads about, it is because the late 20th century has been so favourable an environment

Why the bounders are flourishing today

William Rees-Mogg

The Right Rev Roderick Wright is a bounder-bishop. He has abandoned his first mistress, he has neglected his son, he has formed a relationship with his present mistress while counselling her, he has caused scandal to his diocese, he has lied repeatedly to his superiors, he has capped it all by selling his story to the *News of the World*. Even if he were not a bishop, he would be a cad. This is not a great tragedy of a man who could not handle the problems of celibacy: it is a miserable little story of a man who cannot be relied on, who has consistently proved untrustworthy. When men are bounders, or women are bounder-persons, there is usually sex in it, but there is also usually money; almost always there are lies, always there is betrayal. This is the natural defence of the incorrigible lightweight against personal responsibility.

It is all a question of character. Human society depends on the reliability of personal conduct, which calls for strength. No marriage survives unless there is steadfastness on both sides, unless it is possible for the partners to trust each other. No institution can survive unless the majority of its members, and the great majority of its leaders, can be trusted. There has therefore to be a sense of honour in human affairs. The bounder has an inadequately developed sense of honour, or is unable to stick by whatever feelings of honour he may possess. Of course, honourable people sometimes fall short of their own standards: human beings are subject to temptation, and their conduct is not consistent. But there is all the difference in the world between the occasional failing of basically honourable people and the slipshod behaviour of bounders, of the people who live outside the rules.

The modern world is full of people who are "the wrong stuff", some of whom achieve positions of far greater

authority than the Bishop of Argyll and the Isles. As Bill Clinton is President of the United States, and seems almost certain to be re-elected, people are reluctant to believe that he too is a man of weak and untrustworthy character. Yet Roger Morris, in his recent book on the Clintons, *Partners in Power*, makes an unanswerable case. The conclusion, and Mr Morris is a liberal not a neo-conservative, reads grimly: "On the eve of their re-election campaign, the Clintons are under scrutiny by special prosecutors and federal grand juries, in civil and even criminal cases, from Little Rock and Mount Ida, Arkansas, to Washington DC. The subjects under investigation range from sexual exploitation and petty abuses of power to bribery, obstruction of justice, financial corruption and election fraud... by the spring and summer of 1996 investigators from one congressional committee have begun to gather sworn testimony linking the President of the United States to drug money and organised crime." The Clinton record shows sex, money, lies and betrayals.

So there is not only a bounder bishop, but, more powerfully, a bounder-President. There are also the other British examples. As we were reading with growing astonishment about the bishop, the *Financial Times* was serialising *All That Glitters*, an excellent new book on Nick Leeson by John Gapper and Nicholas Denton. There is no irresponsible sex

in the Leeson story — his wife is the one person who comes well out of it — but there is plenty of money, lies and betrayals. He single-handedly destroyed the old Barings Bank by concealing his disastrous speculations from his colleagues. They can be criticised for failing to see what he was doing. He wanted to look like a hero. There have been other, more recent, cases in which senior people in banks have abused the trust of their colleagues or their clients. The bounder-banker is as well established as the

bounder-bishop, and commoner. The Royal Family has been plagued with bounders in recent years. Lord Charteris was undoubtedly right when he said, in a rare moment of apparent indiscretion, that the Duchess of York was "vulgar, vulgar, vulgar". Her choice of friends seems to have run to bounders to an almost preposterous degree: there were so many of them, and their degree of bounderishness puts Roddy Wright, as he seems now to be called, in the shade.

Major James Hewitt, and Anna Pasternak who turned his creepy love

story into a boudoir novel of the most sickly kind, can both be regarded as super-bounderpersons. He came from a distinguished Russian family. It always adds to such conduct when people have been trained in a code of honour and are not acting out of mere ignorance. If it comes to that, the Roman Catholic clergy are trained to accept a strict morality in their seminaries. The bishop himself can hardly claim not to know what good behaviour should be.

One does not need to list the parliamentary bounders who appeared, one after the other, after John Major's last speech on morality. One can only hope that his return to the theme of morality this autumn will not cause a further crop to fall out of the trees. David Mellor's photograph, trying to wrap him in his family as some politicians have, was a memorable example of the good taste of the last set of Tory scandals.

There are two questions. Why do we have so many such people nowadays? How do they get into such senior positions? There have always been bounders about. They are like microbes that take advantage of any weakening of the immune system. The Royal Family has almost always harboured some in its bosom. The personal friends of Henry V as a young man left much to be desired, but when he became King he threw

them off. Shakespeare makes him say: "I have turned away my former self. So will I those that keep me company." The hangover of George IV, Edward VII or Edward VIII when they were Princes of Wales were of much the same sort. There have always been undesirables in both Houses of Parliament and no churches or regiments have been completely free of them.

If there are more bounders about now, it is because, like mosquitoes in a stagnant swamp, the late 20th-century environment has been so favourable. The 1960s were a decade of particular hostility to the necessary disciplines of life. The disciplines of sex were ridiculed; money was easy to come by; relativist morality was the language of the professors; a generalised rebellion against authority was in the air. Even Mr Clinton's amoral career can partly be explained, as Mr Morris shows, by the misfortune of growing up in the 1960s and in Arkansas. I doubt if the Oxford of the late 1960s, with its anti-authority graffiti on the walls of the colleges, was much better for him.

Ancient institutions have lost their self-confidence. Anyone should have been able to see that Sarah would not make a Duchess. Bill would not make a President. James would not make an officer and Roddy would not make a bishop. They lack the moral fibre for the job; they are the wrong stuff. We have also lost the self-confidence to laugh at self-serving clowns. The best antidote for bounders is to accept them as part of the absurdity of life. As the music-hall song put it:

List to me as I tell you of the Spaniard who blighted my life. List to me as I tell you of the man who stole my future wife. If I catch the bounder, the blighter, I'll kill... I'll raise a bunion on his Spanish onion if I catch him bending tonight.

That is the right attitude.

Courting the country party

Liberal Democrats need Blair, but many won't admit it, says Peter Riddell



Trying to stake out new ground: Paddy Ashdown at his party's conference in Brighton yesterday

Tony Blair has offered the Liberal Democrats a future as players in national politics. But the party will spend much of its conference kicking against this destiny. Speakers will patronise "new" Labour for its timidity and caution and will assert their distinctive identity. Party conferences are always exercises in self-esteem, so this is par for the course. This year there is real, if temporary, indignation about Mr Blair's clumsy handling of a referendum on Scottish devolution. So some Labour-bashing may suit the leadership as a distraction from questions about post-election deals. But many Liberal Democrats seem unsure whether Mr Blair is an ally or a threat.

Paddy Ashdown is in no doubt. He knows that Mr Blair is offering the Liberal Democrats a big opportunity. After all, their sole period of peace-time influence on national government during the past 75 years was indirectly, and messily, during the Lib-Lab pact of 1977-78. But in contrast with Labour's scrambling for Commons votes then, Mr Blair wants a broadly based politics not out of choice. He often acknowledges Labour's debt to Liberal thinkers like Keynes and Beveridge, and says he wants to end the century-old division in radical politics between Labour and Liberal by creating a progressive alliance on the Centre Left. What form this might take would depend on the election result. But even if Labour wins a comfortable majority, my hunch is that Mr Blair would still seek a co-operative arrangement with the Liberal Democrats.

After being temporarily destabilised by Mr Blair's election two years

ago, the Liberal Democrats have recovered their self-confidence and Mr Ashdown has steered his party towards the idea of co-operation. The old policy of "equidistance" between Tory and Labour has been formally abandoned. But there is no talk of electoral pacts or deals since they are unacceptable to either party now — although there are increased links between party spokesmen. Mr Ashdown has also shifted on proportional representation. Progress towards reform would still be an essential part of any agreed programme, but he would not insist on legislation for a particular system as a precondition. He believes the public will not support change until it is persuaded that PR is safe — and that campaign has not been won. Instead, to avoid the equivocal stance taken by Labour in 1978 over PR for the European

elections, Mr Ashdown wants Mr Blair not only to honour his pledge of a referendum, but also to back the principle of changing the current system.

The Liberal Democrats are trying to stake out their own ground by stressing their willingness to take bold and "radical" positions. Labour's caution has left Mr Ashdown room to use his characteristic "We are the only party that will be honest with you" line. Clarity is his new watchword. There will be plenty of self-righteous though partly justified talk in Brighton about the party being the only one not to dodge tough decisions on taxes and Europe. In place of the past emphasis on restraining Labour, Mr Ashdown is

now selling the Liberal Democrats as the party to ensure that a Blair government delivers on education, health and the environment.

A self-consciously daring approach may be better in general than in detail. The Tories last week released a poll showing that many Liberal Democrat supporters did not understand its policies and disagreed with its support for closer European integration and its proposals to raise, if necessary, the basic rate of income tax to provide extra money for schools. The Tories will portray the Liberal Democrats as a left-of-centre party: the electoral market for candour over tax (including raising the top rate from 40 to 50 per cent for those earning above £100,000) may be smaller than Mr Ashdown thinks. But they are now the main challenger to the Tories in much of rural and

small-town England, especially in the South West. The party hopes to boost its current total of 25 seats (including four by-election gains and one ex-Tory defector) up to nearer 40 by targeting and by encouraging tactical voting by those wanting to oust a Tory MP.

The Liberal Democrats and Labour are complementary, both geographically and ideologically in their belief in active government. This is brought out in *The Liberal Democrats*, a new series of essays on the party edited by Don Maciver. Its members are a more middle-class and highly educated version of Labour: half work in the public sector. But there are also key differences. The Liberal Democrats have much looser links to the unions.

Most important of all, the heart of the Liberal Democrats is in local government, where its greatest successes have come over the past decade. Many activists are more interested in social issues than macroeconomics or foreign policy, and have views nearer to "old" Labour than the Blairites, or on occasions Mr Ashdown, on housing, health, education and the market economy. Some activists are wary of making national commitments which could be damaging locally. It would not be only Liz Lynne and a few other soundbite populists who would oppose any deal with Labour.

Menzie Campbell, one of the party's shrewdest MPs, argued in his lecture yesterday that "the concentration on local government too often gives the impression that in it lies most if not all of our aspirations. There is insufficient focus on Westminster save at general elections or in the heady atmosphere of a by-election."

For many of those in Brighton, success in the county council elections on May 1 matters as much as, if not more than, success in a concurrent general election. The Liberal Democrats are already the second party of local government, but they have yet to show they are prepared for the role in national government which Mr Blair is now suggesting and Mr Ashdown has for so long sought.

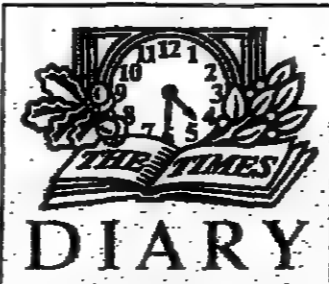
Well-baked

THE intriguing revelation that Harold Pinter had a seven-year affair with the television presenter Joan Bakewell, and that his play *Betrayal* was based on that liaison and not his later relationship with Lady Antonia Fraser, has a further twist. Lady Antonia also used "the thinking man's crumpet" as a model for her fiction, *Jemima Shore*, the TV reporter in her thriller novel series. Is based on Bakewell.

According to Michael Billington's forthcoming biography of Pinter, the playwright was involved with Bakewell between 1962

and 1969 when he was in a tempestuous marriage to the actress Vivien Merchant, whom he left for Lady Antonia. Lady Antonia's first detective novel, *Quiet As A Nun*, was published in 1977, a year before *Betrayal* was staged but at a time when Lady Antonia's affair with Pinter was well established.

Back then she said: "I based the professional side of Jemima on my good friend Joan Bakewell. I let her read the manuscript to make sure that I hadn't made any obvious howlers. Most of all, I wanted Jemima to be a fantasy figure — the



complete opposite of myself. Through writing about Jemima, I could be all the things I'm not... I gave her every quality I could never have. She's aggressive but vulnerable... I have no aggressive instinct." All very friendly. But, in retrospect, perhaps on the inside she was smiling the smile of the cat with the cream when she described the Bakewell/Jemima Shore character to another interviewer and added: "Of course, if I'd wanted to be like that, I would have been."

● Dr Anne Lee, the businesswoman with no experience of teaching who resigned as head of Malvern Girls' College earlier this year after telling *Panorama* she expected that many of her pupils had come in contact with drugs, is to join *Queenswood*, another of the so-called "big nine" girls' public

schools. "She is," says Clarissa Farr, *Queenswood's* Principal, "deeply committed to the standards and ideals we believe in."

Forceful

IN HIS diaries, Sir Alec Guinness recollects our recent meeting when we discussed his retirement. In *My Name Escapes Me: Diary of a Retiring Actor*, Sir Alec reiterates one thing he told me then, that he would not be starring in any new *Star Wars* movies. However, the talk sweeping Hollywood is that he will now be appearing — as the young Obi-Wan Kenobi — in the "prequels" being plotted by George Lucas.

It is said that technical wizards are planning to create the face of the youthful Jedi knight by superimposing footage of the young Guinness on film of him as Obi-Wan, then sticking this "mask" on the body of an actor performing in the new films. He is 82; may the force be with him.

Stamp duty

AMID all her troubles, the Queen is already looking forward to a brighter 1997. After vetoing a set of stamps to mark her 70th anniversary

this year because of the turmoil in her family, she has agreed to a slew of different sets in her golden-wedding anniversary year. Her Majesty will be the first Queen regnant, and only the second monarch (after George III) to celebrate such a marital landmark. For the first time, gold "definitive stamps" — those that feature only Her Majesty's head on a plain background — will be issued.

And that is only the start of



"I thought it might spice up our sex life a bit"

it. The stamps will be complemented by a special set featuring photographs by Lord Snowdon. Another will feature the Queen's horses and further royal flavour will come in the form of a series depicting the Tudor monarchs. These will be a timely reminder that Her Majesty has just passed the 44 years and 127 days that Elizabeth I reigned.

● Another blow on the chin for the Krays, the gangster brothers who loved boxing and enjoyed posing for pictures dressed for the ring. Leonard "Nipper" Road, the detective who put them behind bars, has been made chairman of the British Boxing Board of Control.

Beer we go

IF John Major finds himself out of a job after the election, his most hospitable sanctuary might be with the saloon bar politicians of The Woodman public house in the Surrey village of Woodmansterne. After the Prime Minister popped in for a pint of lager on his way to his niece's wedding in Sutton earlier this month, the landlord said he wants to name the pub after him. "I am seeing the brewery this week and will suggest the idea," says the manager Enda Browne.



John Major in Browne's pub

"Either The John Major or The Grey Man." Even if his superiors don't agree to change a name that has been in existence for generations, Browne hopes he will be able to name his bar after the Prime Minister and plans to repaint the door of his office like Number 10. Brass plaques are to be placed above the bar and on the chairs where John and Norma sat.

Mr Browne says: "We thought about the name 'Norma's' but we could not have the lads saying 'I'm going to Norma's for a pint'; their wives wouldn't like it."

P.H.S

مكتبة من الأصل



THATCHER'S GERMANS

Divided counsel and distorted minutes: an adviser remembers

It requires an effort of imagination to transport ourselves back to the early 1980s, when Margaret Thatcher was first making her mark on the world. When Ronald Reagan was ridiculed for calling the Soviet Union an "evil empire" and Europe was afraid of American missiles and awash with Soviet misinformation, "Know thy enemy" was Mrs Thatcher's first commandment, and few had a shrewder grasp of Soviet and East European politics than George Urban, whose book *Diplomacy and Disillusion at the Court of Margaret Thatcher* is serialised this week in *The Times*.

Mr Urban rose to be head of Radio Free Europe, the American-funded broadcasting station based in Munich, and could fairly be described as a Cold Warrior. A staunch defender of Britain and the West, Mr Urban was greatly impressed by Mrs Thatcher, whom he met through the Centre for Policy Studies, her favourite think-tank. His excellent interviews in *Encounter* magazine had caught her eye, and he became one of the intellectuals whom she invited to help on foreign policy speeches.

But, as his diaries record, Mr Urban soon became aware of an insurmountable barrier between his world view and the Iron Lady's: they disagreed about Germany. His Central European background predisposed him in favour of German culture, and his confidence in the postwar West German political system was robust. She, on the other hand, seemed to him to be fixated by outdated suspicions of the Germans: she thought they wanted first to restore the pre-war status quo by reunification, and then once again to dominate Europe.

In the summer of 1990 Mrs Thatcher reluctantly allowed Nicholas Ridley to resign as Trade Secretary after his outburst

against monetary and political union as a "German racket". George Urban already knew that the Thatcher and Ridley views were virtually identical.

Shortly afterwards came the Chequers seminar on Germany, attended by several eminent historians and commentators on Germany, including Mr Urban. The extract published today gives the first eyewitness account of that historic gathering. Previously observers have had to rely on the notorious leaked memorandum written by the Prime Minister's private secretary, Sir Charles Powell, which suggested that the assembled experts had endorsed the Prime Minister's fear of German expansionism. Far from it, according to Mr Urban: to a man, they opposed her. Not that she took much notice; indeed, her imperviousness to criticism was such that he already foresaw her political demise.

In a second extract, to be published tomorrow, Mr Urban records his impressions of Baroness Thatcher after her fall. He was struck by her rapid disenchantment, not only with Europe and the Major Government, but with the Conservative tradition she had championed. Many who read his account will not share his interpretation. Her anxieties about German domination have been in many respects vindicated by Chancellor Kohl's drive for monetary and political union. But as a document, Mr Urban's book is invaluable — essential reading for all who seek to understand the Thatcher era. The lady herself will hardly be flattered by George Urban's account, but his admiration is not entirely extinguished by his disillusion. Even after the Chequers seminar, he remarks: "MT is a great lady even when she is dead wrong." That is not a bad epitaph.

THE POINT OF THE CENTRE

Why Lib Dems need to be in Brighton this week

Does Britain really need the Liberal Democrats? That is the question which many people watching (and not watching) this week's conference will be asking themselves. No longer is the centre party strikingly different from the two main parties. Its policies are almost identical to those of Labour: the Brighton seafarers yesterday seemed full of the same types of people who have flocked to join Tony Blair's party in the past two years.

Paddy Ashdown, depending upon his mood and his audience, uses two arguments, incompatible with each other, to justify his party's existence. One is that the Lib Dems would provide a vital moderating influence on a Labour government; the other, that the centre party now has the radical policies that an over-cautious Labour Party does not dare to adopt. Both cannot be true, and neither is entirely convincing.

Most voters do not now believe that, in government, Mr Blair would turn upside down all his pre-election promises and embark upon a left-wing rampage that only the Liberal Democrats could prevent. If, however, Labour had only a tiny majority, a phalanx of Lib Dem MPs could help him to pass legislation that might otherwise be threatened by a rebellion of his hard Left.

As for radical policies, now that Labour agrees, more or less, with the centre party on constitutional reform, there are only two distinctive stances that remain to the Lib Dems. Labour is unlikely to boost too much about wanting to raise income tax or to adopt fervent European federalism. Neither is electorally popular — and even Paddy Ashdown's rich passion for European integration was diluted by his article in *The Times* last week. As a result of being squeezed by the rise of Mr Blair, the Lib Dems are now scoring only around 12 per cent in the polls, compared with the 18 per cent that they won at the last election.

Activists in Brighton this week need not, however, despair. The centre party has progressively strengthened its hold upon local councils: it now controls more than the Tories. This has given voters a chance to see the Lib Dems in action. Meanwhile, the party has adopted a much more targeted approach to winning parliamentary seats. Although nominally it is a national party, its strategy is to consolidate its hold in the South West of England and in the Celtic fringe. The ever more sophisticated voting patterns of the British electorate make this ever more possible.

In the run-up to the general election many voters feel that they could vote for any of three parties. They will be shopping around more than ever before. If the Lib Dem candidate has the best chance of beating an unpopular sitting Conservative, he or she is likely to benefit from tactical voting. In each recent general election, the Lib Dems have won more seats for their percentage of the vote than in the preceding one. So, even if their support rises just to the mid-teens, they may still end up with more MPs than they have now.

Those MPs are likely to be different enough in their background to generate a welcome sense of pluralism in the House of Commons. Even if they agreed on most matters with a Blairite Labour Party, they would be free from the incubus of the trade union link and would add rural representation to the predominantly urban Labour experience.

Most important, perhaps, is that the Lib Dems are still small and iconoclastic enough to play around with ideas that might initially seem too revolutionary for a large party to consider but which, several years later, become acceptable policies. It could be as a ginger group, a parliamentary think-tank, that the Liberal Democrats are seen to flourish after the next election.

SURGICAL DRESSING

Beware: careless clothes cost lives

When medical observation agrees with hoary folk wisdom, there is a double respect for the conclusion they draw. Many a carefree adventurer has dismissed, with some embarrassment, the musty exhortations of solicitous mothers to ensure that they are wearing clean underwear in case they should meet with an accident. Now this genteel precept has been vindicated by actuarial findings. Those who are scrubbed and smelling of fresh linen, a Bristol University doctor has found, stand a better chance of access to life-saving attention than those who look and smell like an old tramp.

Today's samaritans are more likely to help a heart attack victim wearing a well-cut suit or a fashionable number with a designer label than one with engine oil on a boiler-suit or who has just been hosing down the stables. It is not only the kiss of life that is more readily planted on the lips of the comatose clothes-horse: nurses hurry the trolley into the theatre and surgeons don their masks in a flash at the sight of a blood-spattered Armani suit. Those with tatty clothes and the aroma of homelessness are sent to the back of the interminable NHS queue.

Kleider machen Leute, say the Germans, and almost every culture has a similar aphorism that "clothes make the man". From earliest days, the squire proclaimed his eminence with gorgeous apparel; and today's taxidriver is more likely to temper his imaginative chat if the

squire in his cab looks like a denizen of Pall Mall or Harley Street. The eccentric mistress of the manor, however, may find an unwelcome familiarity in the tradesmen she confronts in her puppy-breeding overall or her dung-spattered wellingtons, and it may require all her imperious manner to remind them of the fine silks and severe suits that hang in her wardrobe.

On the whole, the British are poor at keeping up appearances, and tend to rate the scruffy above the suave. The middle classes, however, have a keen sense of their own kind, and doctors, generally a product of middle-class upbringing, are as influenced as any by the subtle signals. Dr Phil Hammond even noted in his Bristol casebook that when a mother, dressed in dirty, baggy trousers, took her child to hospital after a fall, she was subjected to insinuations of child abuse, whereas when she returned with the child on another occasion, dressed to the nines, it was assumed she was caring, and responsible.

Of course, the reverse is also true: how many more patients will put their trust in the avuncular GP whose silver hair, weather-beaten face, watch-chain and distinctive brogue makes him for all the world like Dr Finlay or Dr Cameron than in the wild-haired surgeon in jeans and sneakers with the latest research at his fingertips? Doctor and patient should dress to impress: careless clothes cost lives.

Moral arguments on matters of tax

From Mr M. C. Fitzpatrick

Sir, In the debate between Mr Major and Mr Blair on different approaches to public policy (report and Riddell on Politics, September 19) Mr Major argues that it is morally right for the State to cut spending, thereby reducing taxation and allowing people more choice on how they spend their money. Mr Blair, by contrast, argues that the State has a moral obligation to concentrate on education, unemployment, homelessness and making the streets safer.

Is there not also a moral argument to the effect that the State should raise sufficient revenue to pay for its public finance programme? Over the past 30 years or so successive governments have, habitually and deliberately, spent more than they have received in taxation, with the result that they have piled up huge debts which will be passed down to future generations.

Readers might like to ponder the following figures derived from the Treasury's 1995 Budget Red Book: 1. The total of net government debt currently amounts to around £340 billion, equivalent to about £16,000 per UK household. 2. The interest paid each year to service this debt is a figure approaching the amount spent each year on the NHS.

Doubtless, we shall see various definitions of morality advanced by political parties over the next few months. Will any of these include the concept of not saddling future generations with debts incurred by their parents?

Yours faithfully,
M. C. FITZPATRICK
(Head of Economics),
Chantrey Vellacon
(Chartered accountants),
Russell Square House,
10-12 Russell Square, WC1.
September 21.

From Mr H. H. Mainprice

Sir, On July 18 the Paymaster General announced in a parliamentary written answer that the Government would not, from that date, repay any VAT overpaid or underclaimed by businesses further back than for a period of three years.

The Government has retained the right to enforce assessments for underpaid VAT for six years or, in certain cases, such as the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, for which I am acting, 23 years.

In the college's case an application for payment of under-claimed VAT going back to 1973 was restricted to the last three years, while the VAT due during that period which should have been paid was demanded in full.

How does the Prime Minister equate the morality of retaining money which was paid to it in error and which does not belong to it, with his statement on the moral principles of his Government's taxation regime?

Yours faithfully,
HUGH MAINPRICE,
Mainprice & Co
(Specialist VAT consultants),
80 Ebury Street, SW1.
September 20.

From Mr Barry Sheffield

Sir, The Prime Minister claims a moral duty to reduce taxes.

Does it matter (morally) that the effect of the resulting economies in government spending is felt most by the poor, the unemployed, the disabled and the old?

Yours faithfully,
B. SHEFFIELD,
6 Coventry Road,
Fulham, Falmouth, Cornwall.
September 20.

From Mr Ian Mann

Sir, John Major's claim to want to fight the next election on the moral high ground is welcome, if true.

He should start by taking down the stupid posters decrying Tony Blair and the Labour (or socialist?) Party and replace them with explanations of the Tory party's policy — if they have one.

Yours faithfully,
IAN MANN
(Liberal Democrat prospective parliamentary candidate for Hampshire North East),
2 Church Road, Fleet, Hampshire.
September 20.

McGeorge Bundy

From Mrs Carol Bundy Stogdon

Sir, I would dispute Lord Rees-Mogg's contention that my uncle, McGeorge Bundy, must have seen himself as a failure (article, September 19; see also obituary, September 18). Temporarily he was not inclined to such a view. His ambition was for service not power; this he continued both in heading the Ford Foundation and in his many other commitments.

Uncle Mac was well aware of American society's inherent dislike and distrust of its own elites. Since the Revolution at least one person in nearly every generation of his family has played some public role, often contentious, often onerous, in representing that elite as the nation acquired an ever broader interpretation of democracy. For my own generation, or the next, I expect this task will fall to a female member of the family.

Yours,
CAROL BUNDY STODDON,
The Old Rectory,
Middle Chinnock, Somerset.
September 19.

Extending choice of schooling for all

From the General Secretary of the Independent Schools Joint Council

Sir, In extolling the merits of universal comprehensive education ("Devil take the rejects", September 18) Simon Jenkins makes the assumption that parents don't much care about choosing the schools to which they send their children (see also "Let sink schools go private", Lord Skidelsky, September 20). As evidence he points out that "the number of parents opting for private education... has risen only from 5 per cent to 7 per cent since 1965".

An opinion poll conducted by MORI towards the end of August revealed that 49 per cent of parents would send their child to an independent school if they could afford it and 43 per cent would not.

The independent sector demonstrates that not to be up to the standard required by one of the leading academic schools does not make a boy or girl a "reject". Parents realise the good sense of choosing a less academic school if that is appropriate.

There will always be a few whose geese are swans but the advice given by prep school heads is usually headed. That is because in independent schools excellence has many more interpretations than outstanding examination results.

We should be examining ways in which more parents can be given the opportunity to make the kind of choice available only to the very well-off. The expansion of the Assisted Places Scheme to a larger group of schools and to the full age range has been a good start.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR HEARNDEN,
General Secretary,
Independent Schools Joint Council,
Grosvenor Gardens House,
35-37 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1.
September 20.

From Professor Emeritus Deepak Lal

Sir, Simon Jenkins rightly asks why, if education is treated as "a consumer good... the State need subsidise this form of consumption". The classical liberal answer was provided by J. S. Mill's *On Liberty*:

if the country contains a sufficient number

Teacher training

From the Chief Executive of the Teacher Training Agency

Sir, I was surprised to read your criticism of the Teacher Training Agency (leading article, "Teach how to teach", September 19; see also report of the same date) since the rest of your leader largely echoes some of the views the TTA has expressed in its own publications.

In just 18 months the TTA has revolutionised the funding of initial teacher training, so that account is taken of Ofsted inspection evidence — we are the first body to have done this. It has also started the process of de-accrediting five major teacher-training establishments, also based on Ofsted reports — we are again the first body to have done this.

The TTA has been in the vanguard

Minimum wage

From Mr John G Howarth and Mr Andrew Kent

Sir, Dr Marilyn Orchardson (letter, September 12, 14, 16 and 19) is right to draw attention to the impact of the minimum wage on small businesses.

The "micro" businesses, as she calls them, account for 85 per cent of businesses in the United Kingdom and employ 30 per cent of the workforce. They, and their difficulties, are overlooked far too often by the political establishment.

The South Hampshire chambers of commerce represent thousands of businesses — about two thirds of them "micro" businesses — employing ten people or fewer, many part-time. Many of these are in the fields of leisure, tourism, catering and retail. They are under intense competitive pressure and are owner-managed. Profits are being squeezed.

County history

From Lord Petre

Sir, Philip Howard was right to declare, in his article (September 13) on Professor Christopher Elington's epic hike in support of the *Victoria County History* series, that the VHC would be "a far more useful object for the Millennium Fund than any of the daff proposals so far".

Sadly the Millennium Board do not agree. Applications to fund the Essex series, the Wiltshire series and the Herefordshire series have been turned down flat. The reasons given, to us in Essex at any rate, were that the project was not of sufficient public benefit and/or the study of history does not enjoy sufficient public support.

We would like to apply to the Lottery Heritage Board instead but it can, by statute, only support the care and maintenance of the physical environment and not the research which explains and interprets it.

Yours faithfully,
PETRE
(Chairman, Victoria History of the County of Essex),
Whittle Park House,
Highwood, Nr Chelmsford, Essex.
September 18.

of persons qualified to provide education under government auspices, the same persons would be able and willing to give an equally good education on the voluntary principle, under the assurance of remuneration afforded by a law rendering education compulsory, combined with state aid to those unable to defray the expense.

If, as Jenkins asserts, the majority of parents prefer comprehensive schools, demand for them will remain high and they will thrive.

What would not be possible is the social engineering that politicians of all hues have indulged in since the war, and whose major beneficiaries — as with Kenneth Baker's "great revealed form Act" — have been the bureaucrats in the Department for Education and Employment.

Yours faithfully,
DEEPAK LAL,
2 Erskine Hill, NW11.
September 20.

From Mr George Walden, MP for Buckingham (Conservative)

Sir, Simon Jenkins suggests that Lord Skidelsky does not agree with the arguments I put forward in my recent book, *We Should Know Better*, for a new open sector of independent education. Yet on the back of the book Skidelsky is quoted thus: "A compelling case, lucidly presented... His book should be read by all those who have the good of our country and its children at heart."

Neither Skidelsky nor I wish to go back to the old selective system. My thesis is that so long as Britain, alone in Europe, has a segregated system the state sector is doomed to overall mediocrity. The real "elitists" are those who, from a safe height, condescend to the schools others are forced to attend.

In my experience, the middle classes patronise comprehensives in words, but not with their presence. It smacks of mere contrariness to claim that they are fine at precisely the moment when Tony Blair is questioning their ethos and achievements: "Quality must not be sacrificed to equality."

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE WALDEN,
House of Commons.
September 18.

In highlighting the need for teachers to have a good grasp of subject knowledge and high expectations of their pupils, and for teacher training to be soundly based on practical methods which are known to work well in the classroom.

We are therefore delighted that the Education Secretary has now extended our remit into the content of teacher training, to build on the structural reforms already in hand.

In tackling this important new responsibility, I can assure your readers that the TTA will not be trammelled by any ideology, as proved time and again by our track record.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHEA MILLETT,
Chief Executive,
Teacher Training Agency,
Portland House, Stag Place, SW1.
September 19.

If a minimum wage is implemented then these owner-managers can do one of the following: absorb the cost increases themselves — and thus be penalised for their own enterprise; try to pass on the increases to their customers — and risk losing custom and revenues; or employ fewer staff and work longer hours themselves. It is a brutal choice.

We need more real attention paid to the needs, concerns and efforts of those individuals who are actually risking their futures and capital at the sharp end of the enterprise economy.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN G. HOWARTH
(President, South East Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry),
ANDREW KENT
(President, Southampton & Fareham Chamber of Commerce and Industry),
4th Floor, Baltic House,
Kingston Crescent,
Portsmouth, Hampshire.
September 19.

Generations of gerbils

From Mrs Ann Channon

Sir, It is inaccurate to say that gerbils have been kept as pets in Britain only since the 1960s (Weekend, September 14). I was given a pair in 1935.

On reflection I don't regard them as ideal pets. My gerbils had a litter of four or more every month and it was difficult to find homes for them all. The babies, when first born, looked like very unattractive dirty small carrots. They were housed mostly in a large cage with a glass front, which our cat kept guard over all day.

Eventually we persuaded some other luckless family to take them on. Be warned.

Yours faithfully,
ANN CHANNON,
42 Church Street, Eye, Suffolk.
September 16.

Sport letters, page 38

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

More support for working mothers

From Ms Denise Robson

Sir, If women are bringing up young children in ways which cause concern ("Working mothers threaten the future of the human race", report, September 12), this is not by choice.

Economic management by the Government has meant profound changes to families, with a sharp decrease in the classic model: father earning and mother at home. The proportion of working mothers increased from 43 per cent in 1973 to 60 per cent in 1992.

The prevalence of these "work-rich" families reflects several issues. The earnings of two adults are commonly needed to pay a mortgage; Britain's policies on statutory maternity leave and pay compare very poorly with elsewhere; and insecurity at work does not encourage mothers to take career breaks. "Work-poor" families, reliant on benefit, are a sad reflection on Tory industrial policy.

Time spent with children cannot, on its own, compensate for the grinding hardship which is the daily experience of families on benefit. The isolation, the lack of opportunity to "buy in" to modern life as depicted on television and the inability to plan for the future: all of these hurt children. A mother who places her child with a child-minder so that she can acquire vocational training and attain financial independence deserves our support.

Mothers want to do the best for their babies. We need information and support and, above all, a family-friendly employment policy to enable us to spend more time with our young children and babies.

Yours sincerely,
D. M. ROBSON
(Labour prospective parliamentary candidate for Maidenhead),
18 Mount Pleasant Lane, E5.
September 15.

Day care for babies

From Professor Dario Varin

Sir, The conclusions of our study of early group care for children (report, September 13) should not give rise to anxiety in mothers using good day-care centres for their babies.

Undesirable outcomes can occur for certain children who spend too much time — eight or more hours per day — in a centre, start group care in the first or in the early second year, and are emotionally weaker than others: but when the quality of care is good and parents are able to establish warm relationships with their children coming home, the outcome can be positive.

Both my son and my grandchild attended a good day-care centre, and they have grown well.

Yours sincerely,
DARIO VARIN,
State University of Milan,
Institute of Psychology,
Via Larga, 20122 Milan, Italy.
September 17.

Church music

From Mr Piers Schmidt

Sir, As a chorister at Westminster Cathedral and later as a member of the choir of St John's College, Cambridge, I met many congregation members whose religious attendance at services was inspired at least as much, if not more, by the excellent organ and choral music as by the spoken liturgy.

For some the music is an aid to spiritual meditation; for others it provides a sublime escape from everyday pressures; for others, myself included, the music is just a glorious end in itself.

Perhaps Mrs Linda Brooke forgets (letter, September 20; see also letters, September 12, 16) that music and musicians have played this multi-functional role within the Church for more than 600 years. Their job is not just to provide a musical accompaniment to the sung parts of worship, as she suggests, but to facilitate people's reflection and prayer whatever their beliefs.

Yours faithfully,
PIERS SCHMIDT,
29 Windsor Road, Ealing W5.
September 20.

From Mr Joseph G. Cullen

Sir, The substitution of digital music for organs in church may well achieve, as Mr John Harris suggests, "balance between the harmonies [and] steady tempo".

I suspect a perfect musical ensemble would be unlikely, since natural musical instruments are never perfectly balanced through their range, and I have yet to encounter a congregation which sings with anything approaching a metronomic pulse.

Yours sincerely,
JOSEPH CULLEN
(Assistant Master of Music,
Westminster Cathedral),
42 Francis Street, SW1.

From Mrs Auriol Whitworth

Sir, Mrs S. Kenrick (letter, September 16) is right; congregations do not listen to their organists except of course at funerals. Perhaps she might gain some satisfaction from playing her own, very reverent, arrangements of popular tunes. My great aunt used to play "Taraboomdeey" heavily disguised, quite unnoticed by the congregation but giving herself enormous pleasure.

Yours faithfully,
AURIOL WHITWORTH,
The Old School House,
Farley Channellayne,
Romsey, Hampshire.
September 17.

OBITUARIES

MAJOR-GENERAL PAT TURPIN

Major-General Patrick Turpin, CB, OBE, Director of Supplies and Transport, 1960-63, and Director of Movements (Army), Ministry of Defence, 1963-66, died on September 14 aged 85. He was born on April 27, 1911.



PAT TURPIN, who joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1933, was the outstanding army logistician of his generation. Supremely able in command and on the staff, had been born a decade or so later there is little doubt that he would have reached the Army Board as a leading policy-maker. But prejudice against officers of the logistic services created at that time an unspoken but unbreachable barrier to their advancement on the staff to three and four star rank. Turpin nearly made it and would have done so in today's Army in which talent is more important than cap badge.

Turpin's career as a supply and transport specialist spanned the revolutions in army transport systems caused by the demise of the horse, by the steadily increasing capacity of land vehicles, by the introduction of airborne supply and by the Army's acquisition of a fleet of seagoing logistic ships. His reputation was based upon balanced judgment and unimpeachable reliability.

Patrick George Turpin's father was vicar of Misterton, Somerset. He was educated at Haileybury and went up to Exeter College, Oxford, as a senior classical scholar.

He was an all-round sportsman who represented Oxford at cross-country running, and his college at rugby, tennis and squash. Later he was to win his Army and Corps colours for these sports. But above all he rated his accomplishments as a tennis player. He represented Somerset between 1933 and 1954, winning the county championship in 1948 and holding his Corps' championship in every rank up to his time as a male general.

It was while playing tennis that a colleague suggested the Army as a career. He took a regular commission

in the Royal Army Service Corps direct from university in 1934, and, after initial training in England, embarked on the troopship *Dilwara* for Egypt. There he became adjutant to the 7th Armoured Division's supply column at the outbreak of war when the Division was beginning to deploy in the Western Desert. To his chagrin, he missed its victories over the Italians during O'Connor's Cyrenaica campaign of 1940-41, since he was by then a student at the Staff College, Haifa.

He saw no fighting in the Western Desert until after El Alamein because he had been appointed Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General (DAQMG) in HQ British Troops Egypt. After that he had returned to Haifa as an instructor for the whole of 1942. In February 1943 he became an Assistant Quartermaster General (AQMG) to HQ 30th Corps as the 8th Army reached the western Tripolitanian frontier. He was just in time to play his full part in Rommel's decisive defeat at the battle of Medenine, which opened Montgomery's way into Tunisia. The logistic order for the battle, which he signed, is an admirable

example of his clarity of mind: a mere two sheets, specifying the dumping of supplies and ammunition for the three divisions of 30th Corps in their hard-fought defensive battle.

He stayed with 30th Corps for the rest of the Tunisian and all the Sicilian campaigns, gaining a wealth of logistic experience at corps level, including the landings in Sicily. When 30th Corps was withdrawn to England to prepare for Overlord he was appointed AA & QMG (the chief administrative officer) in HQ 5th Division before it landed in Italy. He took part in Montgomery's bloody unsuccessful battles on the Sangro in the autumn of 1943, and subsequently in the equally hard-fought battles of the Anzio beachhead in the winter of 1944.

After Anzio, 5th Division was withdrawn to refit in Egypt. Having had seven years' unbroken overseas service, Turpin was recalled to become chief instructor of the RASC Officers' Training Centre in September 1944. In April 1945, he was promoted brigadier at the early age of 34 to take over as Brigadier A/C (Chief Administrative Officer) in HQ 1st Corps for the crossing of the Rhine, and the final advance to the Baltic coast. For the first nine months of the subsequent occupation of Germany, he was Brigadier A in HQ 21st Army Group. He had been appointed OBE and twice mentioned in dispatches for his wartime services.

In 1948 he achieved the first of his "firsts" for a Logistics Service officer, when he was selected for the Joint Services Staff College (JSSC). Such was the uniqueness of his war experience that after short spells in the War Office and in HQ British Troops Egypt where he was the logistic planner, he returned to the JSSC as an instructor in 1950.

He achieved his second "first" in 1955 when he was selected for the Imperial Defence College, which groomed officers for high-level Whitehall appointments. He was clearly on his way to becoming the professional head of his Corps, and perhaps higher. The last two stepping stones to Director of

Supplies and Transport were Deputy Adjutant General in HQ BAOR, 1956-59, and then Brigadier Administration of 17th Gurkha Division in Malaya at the end of the anti-terrorist campaign, 1959-60, when he supervised the formation of the Gurkha transport units to replace British units, which could not be manned after the end of National Service.

Taking over as DST in mid-1960, he was promoted major-general. His principal task was the phasing out of RASC National Servicemen and the reorganisation of his Corps on an all-regular basis. He was appointed CB for his services in 1962.

At the end of his three-year tenure as DST, he achieved his third "first". He was selected as the Director of Movements, a major policy-making directorate, which had always previously been headed by an "Arms" officer. During his tenure, he played a key role in bringing together all the Army's disparate movement agencies into the new Royal Corps of Transport (RCT).

He could not achieve a fourth "first" by becoming the first logistic service officer to become a lieutenant-general because he was not operationally qualified to be placed on the selection list for an army command. The prejudice against logistic officers' promotion was not even questioned until the mid-1970s.

After he retired in September 1966, Turpin became Colonel Commandant RCT, 1965-71, and the first Colonel of the Gurkha Army Service Corps (later renamed Gurkha Transport Regiment, RCT), 1960-73. At last, he had time for his favourite hobby of gardening and he specialised in the development of heathers. He was chairman of the Heather Society for 15 years and the heather *Pat Turpin* was named after him. He also wrote *The Turn of the Wheel: a history of the RASC, 1919-39*.

He married Cherry, daughter of Major K.S. Grove of the York and Lancasters, in 1947. They had a son and a daughter. His family survive him.

JULIUS SILVERMAN

Julius Silverman, former Birmingham Labour MP and barrister, died on September 21 aged 90. He was born on December 8, 1905.



A STAUNCH leftwinger, who sat in the House of Commons continuously for 38 years, Julius Silverman was always one of the more anonymous Labour MPs. In his earlier years at Westminster his fame was consistently overshadowed by that of his namesake, Sydney Silverman, who shared most of his convictions but maintained (particularly over the long drawn-out campaign against capital punishment, finally won in 1965) a much higher profile.

For his part, Julius Silverman was content to be a spear-carrier in various left-wing organisations, starting with the Keep Left Group in the 1940s, going on through the Bevanites and Victory for Socialism in the 1950s to the somewhat more placid waters of the Tribune Group in the 1960s and 1970s.

Born of a Jewish family in Leeds, Julius Silverman — after education at Leeds Central High School — started his working life as a warehouseman. He then bravely decided to study for the Bar, which he did in the evenings. He enrolled at Gray's Inn in 1928 and succeeded in being called in 1931 at the age of 25. That was no mean achievement for a poor young man in those days and Silverman soon consolidated it by building up a successful practice on the Midland Circuit, which he combined with political work (being elected to Birmingham City Council in 1934 and remaining on it until 1945).

That year in the Attlee landslide he gained the Erdington division of Birmingham for Labour and continued to represent it — though from 1955 to 1974 under the different name of Aston — until his retirement in 1983. One of the things the Labour Right held against him was that, in doing so, he saw off Aston's sitting MP, Woodrow Wyatt, at the time one of Hugh Gaitskell's closest lieutenants, who was forced to leave Birmingham and go in search of a seat elsewhere.

In the Commons Silverman was a loyal supporter of Aneurin Bevan. But he was not, like most of Bevan's

acolytes, at all a gregarious or convivial figure. (His favourite recreation was the normally silent, if not quite solitary, one of playing chess: if Harold Lever was considered the best bridge-player in the House of Commons, Silverman was reputed to be the champion at chess.)

Yet, though he was rarely to be found in Bevan's circle in the Smoking Room, he could nearly always be depended upon to show up in the lobbies whenever a Bevanite rebellion was taking place. This gave him a slightly sinister reputation — he was not noted for taking an active part in Commons debates — and for a long time, partly no doubt because of his chairmanship of the Anglo-Russian Parliamentary Group, he was suspected by the Gaitskellite front bench of possessing fellow-travelling tendencies.

This was almost certainly unjust. Although he visited Moscow many times — and on one occasion even underwent hospital treatment there — Silverman was, in fact, an old-fashioned leftwinger who had never adjusted his beliefs in the light of the increasing evidence of the Stalinist tyranny. He was typical of his generation, too, in possessing an admiration, bordering almost on idolatry, for Nehru's India. He was a long-serving chairman of the India League, and his only published work was a history of the Congress Party, which he produced in

1986, three years after he had left Parliament.

But that was not his only occupation in retirement. In 1985 he was asked by Birmingham City Council to conduct an inquiry into the Handsworth race riots (in which two people had been killed). His report, produced in some five months, predictably proved controversial. By naming unemployment and poverty as the chief causes of what had occurred — and rejecting any suggestion that drug dealers had been behind it — Silverman irritated the police, who had been hoping for more robust findings. There was even a public spat with the Deputy Chief Constable of the West Midlands over whether rubber bullets might have succeeded in containing the trouble.

It could certainly be said of Silverman that in his own terms he had kept the faith. What he wrote in that report at the age of 80 was what he had believed all his life. He was an unreconstructed economic determinist of precisely the kind that the present Labour Party rejects. Although he had been present at the small and select gathering of old Bevanites that welcomed Harold Wilson to the leadership 33 years ago, he would almost certainly have had difficulty in finding his bearings in any New Britain created by Tony Blair.

In 1959 Julius Silverman married his secretary Eva Price, who survives him.

ANNABELLA

Annabella, film actress, died on September 18 aged 87. She was born on July 14, 1909.

EVEN from earliest childhood Annabella had a passion for cinema. As a child playing in the garden of her family home near Paris, the chicken shed out in the yard became her imaginary studio where, lost in a world of imagination, she would act out scenes from the films she had watched, talking upon herself the role of director, cameraman and leading lady all at once.

She rose, during the 1930s, to become one of France's most celebrated actresses and later moved to Britain to work. But Hollywood had always been her childhood dream. Invited there in 1938, she married Tyrone Power, one of the leading stars of the day. Yet though she never achieved great success in American films, she did not appear embittered. Looking back as an elderly woman over her career, she said: "I loved filming, not to become a star, but to continue playing like when I was little."

Annabella was the stage name of Suzanne Georgeette Charpentier, who was born in Le Verre-Saint-Hilaire, near Paris. Her father, the publisher of a small magazine, had a passion for photography and was always marshalling his family together for portrait shots. Suzanne inherited something of his passion for the visual arts.

Her film career was launched after her father met a friend of the director Abel Gance. This friend, on seeing Suzanne's *gamin* good looks in a photograph, recommended her to Gance for his next movie.

Filming of *Napoleon* began in 1925 with Suzanne playing Violaine, a rapid admirer of the general. She appeared so beautifully on the screen that Gance expanded her part until her screen time rivalled that of the leading lady who was playing Josephine. Annabella was bitterly disappointed when, at the film's premiere in

1927, she found that most of her scenes had been cut.

It was Gance who renamed her Annabella, after Edgar Allan Poe's poem *Annabel Lee*, and it was under this name that she rose to fame in France in the 1930s. Her father managed her early career, securing her a small role first in René Clair's *Le Million* (1931) and then in his *Quatorze Juillet* (1933).

Though she got on well with Clair, enjoying his sense of humour and practical jokes, her favourite director was the Hungarian, Paul Fejos, with whom she went to Budapest to make *Marie, légende hongroise*. He was a man of great sincerity, she later recalled, who, when a scene required her to weep, would be there behind the cameras looking at her with tears filling his own eyes.

In 1934 Annabella was named Best Actress at the Venice Biennale for her performance in *Vielles d'armes*, and marked out as a star, found herself two years later lured across the Channel.

She made three films in Britain, the best of which was *Wings of the Morning* (1937) the first Technicolor feature to be made on this side of the Atlantic. Her part as Maria the Spanish gypsy was one she greatly enjoyed, not least because of her passion for Henry Fonda, her leading man. Though Annabella had by this time been married for five years to an actor, Jean Murat, Fonda is said to have had to flee the set at the end of each day's shooting to escape Annabella's amorous advances and her husband's rage. Annabella's first marriage was dissolved in 1938 and that same year she went to Hollywood.

She had fantasised about going there since childhood, though in the end she left little mark among the firmament of stars. But in the film *Suez* (1938) she played a sultry Egyptian beauty opposite Tyrone Power. He became, she later said, "the one great love of her life... He was what we all think romance will be

when we are 15." But their marriage, the next year, increased Darryl F. Zanuck, the head of the studio, especially when Annabella would not return to Britain to film. Nor was he pleased when she was hailed as a future stage star.

Taking American citizenship, Annabella toured North Africa and Italy in the mid-1940s entertaining the troops. The time apart had ill effects on her marriage. Her husband, returning to Hollywood after a spell as a Marine, had affairs with, among others, Judy Garland and Gene Tierney. On top of this, he and Annabella seemed unable to have children and, in the end, they separated. Letting him go had been the worst mistake she had ever made, Annabella later said, but she and Power remained close friends throughout all his subsequent marriages. She was with him just four days before he died.

She returned to Paris after her separation from Power to find that her brother had been killed while trying to escape from the Nazis and her family home had been ransacked. She made just one more French film, *Dernier Amour* (1949), and then retired. "What was offered to me when I went back to France after the war was a little second-rate," she said. "So I thought, I won't have enough money to buy Chanel suits any more but I can live without them and be free." Her last ever part was in *Don Juan* made in Spain in 1950. "I finally had freedom... One day I walked out and nobody stared at me. I loved it."

On her retirement she occupied herself with prison welfare work in France, dividing her time between her two residences, a splendid Parisian apartment and a farm in the Pyrenees. But she always maintained her interest in films and in 1983 attended a screening of *Napoleon* at the Barbican. It was the first time she had seen herself in it since its premiere.

Annabella is survived by a daughter from her first marriage to Jean Murat.



PROFESSOR JERZY WDOWCZYK

Professor Jerzy Wdowczyk, physicist, died in Lodz, Poland, on September 6 aged 61. He was born in Sonica on July 28, 1935.

IN HIS work as physicist, Jerzy Wdowczyk's greatest contribution was to further the study of the "cosmic rays" which had first been detected in 1912 by Viktor Hess. Hess's discovery of these rays, made during perilous balloon ascents, sparked off research worldwide and it was soon realised that the so-called "rays" were, in fact, largely atomic particles of astounding high individual energies.

Throughout the 1930s and 1940s several discoveries were made of relevance to the fundamental constituents of matter. The positron, muon, pion and the "strange particles" were all first detected in cosmic rays. The subject has become relevant to astronomy, too. The particles have been found to come from unknown sources beyond the Sun and even beyond the galaxy of the Milky Way.

Wdowczyk and his group of research scientists working at the Institute for Nuclear Research in Lodz pursued the answers to crucial questions. They tried to discover where these cosmic rays originated, how they achieved their enormous energies and how they interacted with matter.

Jerzy Wdowczyk — known to all as George — was born in Poland. His childhood was scarred by the German occupation of his country and he was always to remember how he and his family had to live in hiding in a forest for several months and how they suffered from terrible food shortages. But throughout his life he retained a strong sense of patriotism and cultivated a great knowledge of Polish history.

At the age of 17 he worked as a teacher in a primary school for three years. But in 1955, at the age of 20, he gained a place to study Physics at the University of Lodz and it was there that he was to spend the rest of his life.

Cosmic ray research had been started in Lodz at the Institute for Nuclear Research (associated with the university) by Alexander Zawadzki, himself a brilliant teacher and researcher. However, when he left for Paris in 1968 Wdowczyk stepped into his shoes. With his intuitive understanding of physics, coupled with considerable mathematical abilities and a personal enthusiasm and charm, he quickly established Lodz as major cosmic ray research centre.

He collaborated with other universities all over the world, including in Britain, Germany, France and the United States. But perhaps his most

important collaboration was with the University of Durham, where he held an honorary doctorate. Starting in 1965, he was a frequent visitor to the university and reciprocally played host to the Durham group in Lodz. He and Arnold Wolfendale from Durham advanced many ideas in his research field and it was said that no cosmic ray conference was complete without the presentation of a new Wdowczyk-Wolfendale theory — some of them actually turned out to be right.

However, Wdowczyk's collaboration with the Soviet Union, though it had been profitable at first, fell on hard times with the collapse of Communism, though he did continue to coax some funds out of a variety of agencies.

Wdowczyk served as chairman of the cosmic ray commission of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, as well as of many conferences and symposiums held in Lodz. Earlier this year he chaired the 15th Cracow Summer School of Cosmology, a school devoted to one of his specialities: the thorny question of the mass composition of ultra high energy cosmic rays.

He was a Curie prizewinner and a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. He leaves a widow, Helen, herself a physicist, and two sons and a daughter.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Anthony Bell, Priest-in-charge, Byers Green, and Industrial Chaplain, Teesside (Durham); to be Priest-in-charge, Ault Hucknall (Derby).
The Rev Michael Bishop, Vicar, Sutton v Carlton and Norton upon Trent (Southwell); to be Priest-in-charge, Church Broughton v Barton Blount, Boylestone and Sutton-on-the-Hill and Trusley and Longford, Long Lang and Dalbury and Radbourne (Derby).
The Rev Janet Bromley, Curate, Westbury-on-Trym; to be Vicar, benefice and parish of Wroughton (Bristol).
His Honour the Worshipful and the Rev Dr Rupert Bursell, Chancellor of the diocese of St Albans; to be an Honorary Assistant Bishop in the diocese of Bath and Wells.

to be Chaplain, Yeovil College, and Senior Assistant Priest, The Camels Parishes (Bath and Wells).

The Rev Andrew Davey, Vicar, St Luke, Camberwell; to be Area Ministry Development Adviser (part-time), within the Woolwich Episcopal Area Mission Team (Southwark).
The Rev John Draper, Assistant Curate, St Francis, Leigh Park and St Clare, Warren Park; to be Rector, St Mary the Virgin, Rowner (Portsmouth).

The Rev Christine Everett, Minister in pastoral responsibility for Great Bealings, Little Bealings v Colpho; to be Priest-in-charge of that benefice (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).
The Rev John Goldsmith, Vicar, all Saints, Matlock Bank, and Rural Dean of Wirksworth; to be Priest-in-charge, Kirk Hallam (Derby).
The Rev Mary Goldsmith, NSM, All Saints, Matlock Bank; to be

charge, Watton at Stone; to be also Priest-in-charge, Bramfield v Stapleford and Waterford (St Albans).

The Rev Horace Harper, Vicar, Dresden and Priest-in-charge, Normaco (Lichfield); to be also a Prebendary of Lichfield Cathedral.
The Rev Christopher Harrison, Vicar, Forest Hill (Southwark); to be Priest-in-charge, Fenby Bentley, Thorpe, Tillingham, Alsop-en-le-Dale and Parwich (Derby).
The Rev Richard Harrison, Team Vicar, St Philip, Bournemouth (Salisbury); to be Assistant Curate, w special responsibility for St Mary, Burton, and Education and Training Co-ordinator for Petersfield deanery (Portsmouth).

The Rev Paul and St Luke, Thornaby on Tees (York); to be Priest-in-charge, St Saviour, Stanshaw (Portsmouth).
The Rev Stanley Haworth, Vicar, Deeping St James (Peterborough);

The Rev Bill Hopkinson, Priest-in-charge, Tenterden St Michael; full-time director, Board of Ministry and Training (Canterbury).
The Rev Stephen Jones, Assistant Curate, Howden Team Ministry, w special responsibility for Wresle and Barnby; to be Chaplain at St Elphin's School, Darley Dale (Derby).

Resignations and retirements
The Rev Denis Desert, Rector, Northill w Moggerhanger (St Albans); to retire September 30.
The Rev Charles Dodd, Priest-in-charge, Brethay and Newton Solney (Derby); retired August 31, but continues as Chaplain (half-time) Industrial Mission in Derbyshire.

Canon Geoffrey Davies, Vicar, Lymn (Chester); retired as Rural Dean of Great Budworth on July 31, and will retire as Vicar, Lymn, October 6.
The Rev Derek Gibling, Vicar, Harrington and Biggin w Earl Snerdale (Derby); retired September 21.
The Rev Brother Serge Middleton-Dansky, Honorary Priest-in-

ROYALTY THEATRE
"I HAVE BEEN HERE BEFORE"

By J. B. Priestley
Sally Pears, Dr. Gortler, Oliver Parnett, Janet Ormrod, Walter Ormrod, Eileen Beaton, William Lewis, Lewis Casson, William Fox, Patricia Hillard, Wilfrid Lawson

Mr Priestley quotes Rossetti: "I have been here before But when or how I cannot tell." and gratefully acknowledges his debt to Ouspensky "for some of Dr. Gortler's theories of Time and Resurrection", but forgets that philosophical young gentleman

Who said: "It appears that I am A creature that moves In predestinate grooves I'm not even a 'bus, I'm a tram."

But perhaps Mr. Priestley remembered and rejected him, for it must be confessed that the analogy (and possibly the quotation) is not precise. Strictly, Dr. Gortler's theory is that we are trolley-buses, moving ordinarily on a slightly spiral course and repeating the greater part of our lives over and over again, but with the possibility of a saving, or a damning, swerve. The swerve, inevitably and dramati-

ON THIS DAY
September 23, 1937



Having studied the writings of the philosopher P.D. Ouspensky, and J.W. Dunne's widely read book *An Experiment with Time*, J.B. Priestley wrote two "time" plays: *I Have Been Here Before* and *Time and the Conways*

cally, is the making of the play, overriding a rigidity of theory that threatens to be barren and so transforming the story that it becomes beyond question the most far-reaching that Mr. Priestley has written for the theatre or for the library. The scene is a country inn on the Yorkshire moors. Here Dr. Gortler comes expecting to find what he does find — a group of people, a rich husband, an unhappy wife, and a young schoolmaster, whose futures he has, so to speak, tapped. Oliver is fated to run away with Janet; Walter, Janet's husband, will kill himself; by his death scandal and ruin will come to many people, and the lovers be brought to poverty and bitterness in a secret

has happened before and will happen again unless an act of intervention breaks the recurrence, and Gortler, who has not been in this inn before, is the bringer of fresh knowledge — the only possible intervener. This is the point at which to say that Mr. Priestley makes the best possible use, from the outset, of the sense of fate in all these people's minds, and that, even if it third act were not in a class apart from the rest, the play would still be taut and exciting. Every one in it is interesting in himself, not the puppet of a theory. Mr. Wilfrid Lawson's study of the husband's nerve-ridden despair has a rare intensity and power to evoke the spirits of evil. Mr. Fox shows with genuine accomplishment the change in the schoolmaster when the wind of destiny blows in the face of his rationalism; Miss Patricia Hillard gives to the girl a saving tension; and Mr. Lewis Casson, whose production of the play is remarkable in its judgment of emphasis and pace, makes Gortler lovable as well as wise. But Gortler is never wise — and this is the play's distinguishing merit — than when he and Mr. Priestley suddenly break the stiff outline of their theory and transcend it by an act of spiritual perception. Man can escape from his groove, says Gortler, and by an imaginative act transform his destiny and recreate himself

TODAY IN THE TIMES **PERFECT ROYALTY** **GREAT SEASON OF SPORT**

BRITAIN ON THE UP
Another Davis Cup promotion success at Wimbledon
PAGE 32

PREMIERSHIP DREAMS
He came, he scored, he left.
Klinsmann and his year at Spurs
kicks off a new series PAGE 33

SOLHEIM CUP GOES STATESIDE
Pride of European women's golf swept aside PAGE 27

PLUS: Alan Lee on
Leicestershire's cricket title triumph PAGE 36

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 23 1996



Villeneuve leads Hill through the chicane in the Portuguese Grand Prix at Estoril yesterday before pulling clear. Hill must finish in the first six in Suzuka to be sure of the title. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Villeneuve's victory takes championship to final race

Hill driven to the wire

FROM OLIVER HOLT
IN ESTORIL

IT WAS once a headlong pursuit, a swashbuckling, carving dash for the title that left the rest of the best drivers in the world choking on his exhaust fumes. Now, Damon Hill's struggle to clinch his first Formula One drivers' world championship has become an agonising crawl on all-fours, knees bloodied and eyes grazed.

Suddenly, now that two chances to wrap the championship up early have slipped through his grasp, Hill will find himself a hostage to fortune when he tries for the last time to clinch the title at the Japanese Grand Prix in Suzuka in three weeks, the final race of the season.

He finished second to Jacques Villeneuve, his Williams-Renault team-mate and the only man who can catch him, in a thrilling Portuguese Grand Prix here yesterday and still holds a nine-point lead over his rival. But instead of going East with his title, he is only a mechanical failure or a backmarker's error away from finishing world championship runner-up for the third year in succession.

Villeneuve's win may also delay a decision on Hill's future. His capture of the championship would undoubtedly boost his earning potential and, although there are rumours that his destination will be announced today, it is far more likely, with Benetton, Jordan and Stewart still showing interest, that negotiations will drag on.

The title should still be his,

of course. Villeneuve must win to have any chance of denying Hill the achievement that once seemed likely to come with several races to spare and, even if he does, the Englishman needs only to finish in the top six to claim the prize he deserves so richly. If they were to finish level on points, Hill would take the title by virtue of more wins.

The legions of British fans who will stay up late into the night to watch him try to end his odyssey in Japan, though, will have uncomfortable memories of final-race showdowns, of dreams shattered at the final hurdle by circumstances beyond their heroes' control. It will be a nerve-jangling, nail-biting occasion.

They will remember Nigel

Mansell slewing across the track in Adelaide in 1986 after a puncture ruined his hopes and handed the title to Alain Prost. They will recall, too, Hill's intense gaze after Michael Schumacher used his crippled Benetton to drive him off the road at the same circuit two years ago, handing the championship to the German by a single point.

"Anything is possible in motor racing," Villeneuve said, after he had driven to a brilliant victory here. "Nine points does not look very good, but you never know what can happen. Damon could make a mistake, something could go wrong with his car, but then again, that could happen to me, too."

"It will be a great battle and

it is not over until it is over. Until the last lap is finished, you never know what the outcome will be. I will just have to try to win, to do everything I possibly can and see what happens then. It is going to be very interesting."

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Hill has not won for four races — since the German Grand Prix at the end of July — and his performance yesterday even provoked a mild rebuke from the Williams technical director, Patrick Head. "Jacques won the race on his speed, which Damon did not have," Head said. "I

felt Damon should have wrapped it up here, but I still expect him to do it in Japan. I would stake my life-savings on it."

Hill, who looked as though he was going to clinch the championship at the Italian Grand Prix in Monza a fortnight ago until he collided with a pile of tyres on the fifth lap and was forced to retire, made another fine start yesterday and watched in delight as Villeneuve was passed by both Jean Alesi and Schumacher before the first corner.

But, after the young Canadian had executed a daring and startling overtaking manoeuvre to pass Schumacher on the sixteenth lap of the 70-lap race, he began to erode Hill's advantage. Hill's bravura in the

early part of the race was replaced by a more cautious approach as the prize beckoned, and that allowed Villeneuve to move himself right on to Hill's tail.

When they both made their third and final pit-stops, Villeneuve sneaked out just in front and clutch problems in the latter stages prevented Hill from attempting to pass his rival. Villeneuve coasted home by nearly 20 seconds, with Schumacher third.

"Before this race," Hill said, "I could not help but think I was within an hour and 45 minutes of becoming world champion. But I will have to wait until Suzuka now to find out what is going to happen. I have waited for it all season; in fact, I have waited for it for several seasons, and for longer than that, so I suppose I can wait for three more weeks."

"I drove today with the world championship in mind. When they told me towards the end that there was a clutch problem, I thought the last thing I needed at that stage of the race was a mechanical failure and a non-finish. I am still absolutely confident that I will be world champion at the end of the season."

The celebrations will have to wait for Suzuka and the famous Log Cabin bar in its grounds where Ayrton Senna, Hill's late team-mate, celebrated championship victories in the past. If he had clinched the title last night, he would have partied into the early hours of this morning at a nightclub called Cocoon in the seaside town of Cascais. Instead, for one more race, he is going to be the target in a shy.

HOW THE RIVAL DRIVERS VIEW THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SHOWDOWN

HILL (87 POINTS)

"I don't know how Jacques got in front of me. I thought I had enough in hand when I went into the pits. I was coming down the straight, I saw a car coming out of the pits and thought it was a Tyrrell. Then I saw the Rothmans on the back — I was pretty shocked. I am still absolutely confident that I will be world champion."

VILLENEUVE (78 POINTS)

"I had nothing to lose by passing Michael. I had to beat Damon or lose the championship right there. It was a big risk — but it was worth it. Nine points does not look very good, but you never know what can happen. Damon could make a mistake, something could go wrong with his car. It will be a great battle."

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Walker takes honours after bad break for Eurosport

Auntie still has a few friends in the pit lane of Formula One that help the BBC to maintain a slight edge in motor racing broadcasting almost to the very end of the road. Of course, it is commercial considerations that will force the BBC out of motor racing next season, but yesterday it was a commercial break, forced on the only rival broadcaster in the United Kingdom, Eurosport, that emphasised the advantage handed to Murray Walker and his crew.

While the BBC's man in the pits, Tony Jardine, was being told exclusively that Damon Hill's problem in the last ten laps of the Portuguese Grand Prix was due to a slipping clutch, Eurosport was off air. When it returned, not even John Watson, whose former

driving experience and most precise ability to translate what is happening inside the cockpit and the minds of the racers, was informed about the reason why Hill began losing a crucial half a second a lap to his Williams' team-mate and yesterday's race victor, Jacques Villeneuve.

It is fascinating, the viewer having this satellite dish and a button that allows one to alternate transmissions between rival broadcasters of the same event. Few of us would switch off grandfather Walker for long: this 72-year-old who exudes enthusiasm for the sport the way the cars give off high-octane fumes.

Ride with Walker, and you must abandon any pretence at suppressing chauvinism. He is British to the core, he presumes that everyone at

home is riding with Damon and no one else, and even when Dr Jonathan Palmer, his cerebral co-commentator, puts a soothing and restraining hand on the high-pitched tone of Walker's own commentary, the paternal protectiveness from Walker towards Hill wins through.

Thank goodness ITV, when it takes over from the BBC next season, has seen the good sense in capturing Walker. For all that audiences have been encouraged to laugh at his human gaffes, he transmits knowledge laced with such a volume of emotion that he remains an act in himself.

"Damon has got to stay ice cool, ice cool," he shouted on lap 46. "Villeneuve is right behind him!"

Long before this the differences between the BBC and



ROB HUGHES
TV Action Replay

Eurosport had been apparent. The commercial channel offered such a greater commitment, spending hours taking the viewer through practice laps that, with the insight of Watson at the microphone, left us in no doubt that the Williams chassis made it the car that no other manufacturer could compete with on this Estoril circuit. Mischievously, Watson had admitted: "I'd like it to rain half an hour before the start, just to add that little bit of ginger to 20 nervous guys on the grid."

But, when they were on the starting grid, the BBC once again had the inside track of a man with his feet on the Tarmac. The presenter, Steve Rider, interviewed Hill 20 minutes before the green light and elicited the comment: "I'm planning to make a blinding start, though I'm aware I just have to remain in the present (rather than thinking of next season) and concentrate on my job."

The rival broadcast stations both paid immediate tribute to the way Hill drove out the

demons from his starting technique, though again Walker was closest to the pitch. "It's a wonderful start for Damon Hill. It's a bad start for Jacques Villeneuve," he called.

On the opening laps, as Hill eased smoothly away and Alesi kept both Schumacher and Villeneuve behind him, Watson came into his own. He spoke of listening to Villeneuve's engine, observing the "short shifts" the Canadian was deploying to avoid wheel spin in the turbulence behind Schumacher's Ferrari. And Watson added that "Alesi can't run any quicker, but Schumacher and Villeneuve are trapped in the air behind him, whereas Hill has clean air and a clear track ahead of him."

Again, there was nothing

between the BBC and Eurosport in identifying the crowning piece of driving, the determination with which Villeneuve overtook Schumacher on lap 16 when both came across the slower moving back marker. Gianni Lavaggi. And, if the Portuguese television pictures that both were dependent upon flagged towards the middle of the race, then so, just a little, did the concentration of Walker. "I'm not going to say there aren't any clouds in the sky, because there are clouds in the sky," he commented, "but they're very healthy white clouds."

It was, however, Walker who first voiced suspicions that something other than a lack of aggressive driving was holding Hill back after the third fuel stop, and it was

Walker whose voice grew obviously angrier when Patrick Head, the Williams' technical director, said in an interview that the technical problem was slight, but Villeneuve had been more aggressive in getting through the back markers.

At the end, Rider called, a shade optimistically for viewers to switch on live for the final race, which will mean rising before the sun on October 13 when the Japanese Grand Prix begins at 5am. It is the BBC's last race of the era but, two years ago, when the season similarly finished at an ungodly hour with a race from Melbourne, three million viewers sat through the night. They may do so again, the finger poised on the button between the BBC and its rival.

MOTOR RACING: CANADIAN MAKES DECISIVE MOVE IN STUNNING STYLE TO KEEP HIS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HOPES ALIVE

Villeneuve sparkles with star quality

FROM OLIVER HOIT
IN ESTORIL

THEY got the flotsam and jetsam out of the way in the preliminary skirmishes and then they battled it out head-to-head. The Portuguese Grand Prix here swayed one way, then the other, but just when Damon Hill must have thought his elusive first world drivers' championship was in his pocket, Jacques Villeneuve drove the race of his young life to keep his own hopes alive.

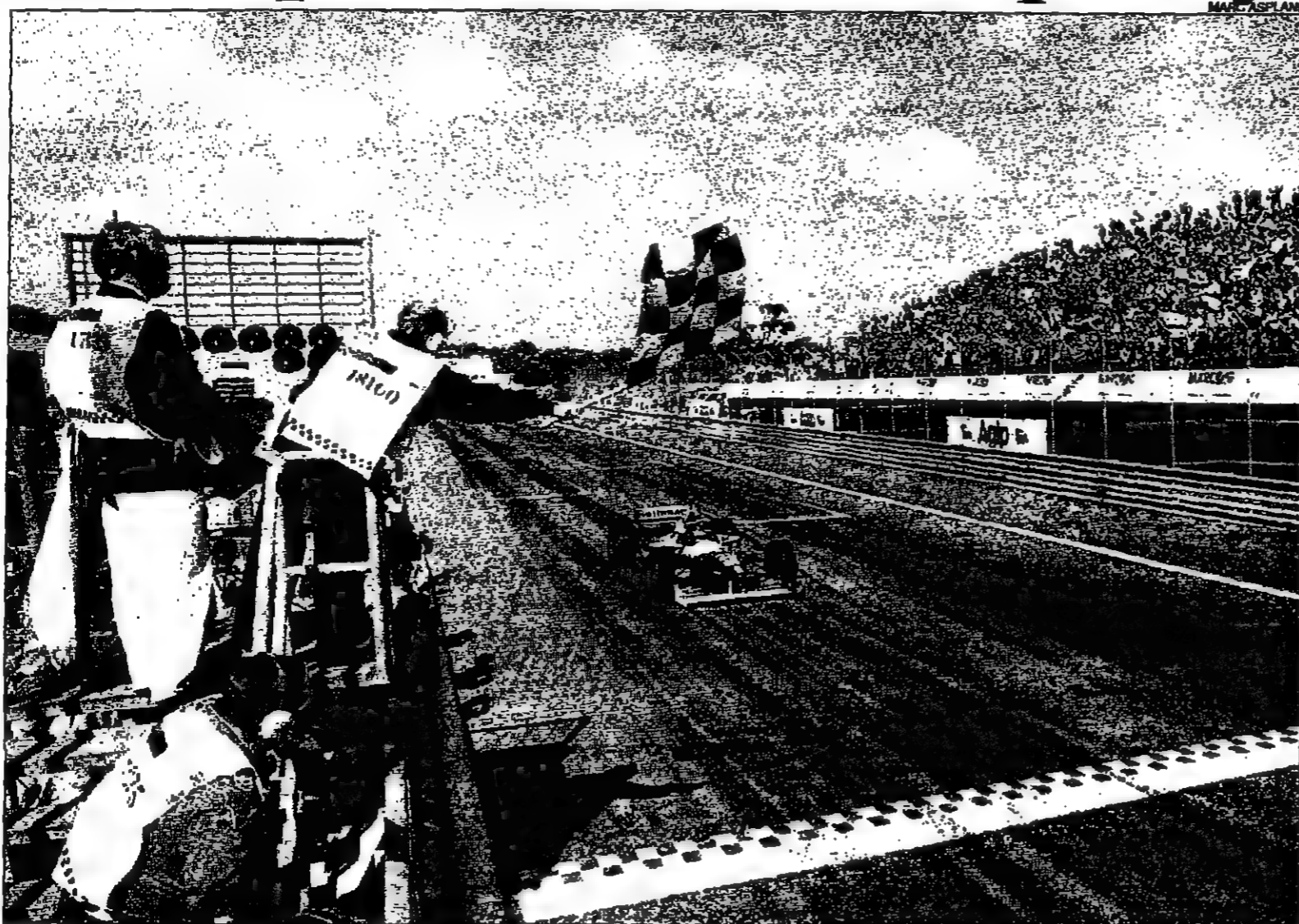
Villeneuve produced a manoeuvre straight from a film script to turn the race on its head and transform his fortunes. It was so bold it startled even its victim, Michael Schumacher, but the struggle for the title is going down to the wire and desperate measures are demanded in these Days of Thunder.

Villeneuve needed to win yesterday's race to have any chance of denying Hill, his Williams-Renault team-mate, the title when they contest the last grand prix of the season in Japan next month, but, after a dreadful start, the Canadian was lying in fourth place early in the race, stuck behind Schumacher and seemingly powerless to act as Hill gradually extended a comfortable lead.

Hill, who started the race from the twentieth pole position of his career and was buoyed by a hug from his friend, the former Beagle, George Harrison, on the grid before the start, made a fine getaway, a contrast to the stuttering starts he has suffered in recent races. He swerved first one way and then the other to block the advances of Villeneuve and Alesi respectively and hurtled into the first corner clear in the lead. He looked comfortable at the front as Villeneuve toiled behind Schumacher and the race looked as though it would become a dull procession that would push Hill inexorably towards the championship.

There had only been one overtaking move in the whole race at a circuit where it is notoriously difficult to overtake, when suddenly, on the sixteenth lap, Villeneuve closed right up on the German as he was slowed by the Minardi of Giovanni Lavaggi.

As they rounded the final, sweeping turn that leads to the pit straight, Villeneuve stole



Villeneuve takes the chequered flag at Estoril to win the Portuguese Grand Prix and keep Hill's hands off the championship champagne

up on Schumacher's outside as the world champion searched for him on the inside in his mirrors. It was the kind of melodramatic, swashbuckling move that Formula One has been starved of for so long. It seemed just and proper that it should be the turning point of the race.

By the time that Schumacher realised what was happening, it was too late and, as it seemed that Villeneuve would be boxed in behind Lavaggi as he tore along next to Schumacher, he darted out in front of him and into third place. He overtook Alesi when the Frenchman made his first pit stop on the 23rd lap and began to hunt down Hill.

"I think the experience I

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"I think the experience I

up on Schumacher's outside as the world champion searched for him on the inside in his mirrors. It was the kind of melodramatic, swashbuckling move that Formula One has been starved of for so long. It seemed just and proper that it should be the turning point of the race.

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TOURING CARS

Controversy overtakes late charge by Menu

BY MARK FOGARTY

ALAIN MENU, the Swiss driver, claimed second place from Rickard Rydell, in a Volvo, as the Auto Trader British Touring Car Championship came to a controversial conclusion at Brands Hatch yesterday. Menu won the 25th round of the series in his Renault Laguna and finished fourth in the final race to secure the runner-up spot for the third year in a row.

He overcame a deficit of 14 points to beat Rydell by three after the Swedish driver, who was also third in the championship last year, could only manage fifth in the first race and then failed to finish the deciding event when his Volvo RS0 suffered a driveshaft failure.

But Menu's achievement was overshadowed by the aftermath of a collision with Roberto Ravaglia, of Italy, as they battled for the lead going into the first corner of the opening race. Menu's car made contact with Ravaglia's BMW 320i, sending them both into spins that set off a chain reaction of crashes behind them, causing the race to be restarted.

Menu was able to retake his second place on the grid and led from the start while Ravaglia's car remained in the pits undergoing repairs until a few laps from the finish, when he rejoined at the tail of the field.

When Menu came up behind him on the last lap, Ravaglia, who was still angry about the earlier incident, balked him a few corners from the finish. Menu lost so much ground that he was almost overtaken by Ravaglia's BMW team-mate Peter Kox, of Holland.

"I have never seen anything so disgraceful in all my career," Menu said. Championship officials fined Menu £2,000 for causing the original collision but the penalty was overturned by race stewards on appeal, while Ravaglia was fined £1,500 for his blocking tactics.

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IN BRIEF

Zülle in sight of victory in Spain

ALEX ZÜLLE, of Switzerland, tightened his grip on the Tour of Spain cycling race when he emerged from the mist to take the fifteenth stage at Alto Cruz de La Demanda yesterday. In another masterful display, Zülle launched a late attack to catch José María Jimenez near the line. The 210-kilometre stage was ridden in cold, wet conditions, the riders finishing almost an hour later than organisers had expected.

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Results, page 41

"I think the experience I

Has Schumacher seen the back of Hill for the last time?

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GOLF: EUROPE'S ATTEMPT TO WREST CONTROL OF COVETED TROPHY UNDERMINED BY SERIES OF FAILURES ON FINAL DAY

Americans spurred by singular success

By JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THE BELL in the tower of the medieval St Pierre church rang out yesterday, its resonant tones competing with the sounds of ducks quacking and wasps buzzing half-heartedly in the autumn sunshine. In such a British setting and on a Sunday in September, the day and the month when the Walker and Ryder Cups were famously captured from United States teams in 1995, the antics of celebration after a victory in the Solheim Cup by the Europe team would not have been inappropriate.

Instead, the bell took on a funeral note, one that heralded a dismal collapse by the home side in the singles on the third and final day of this



EUROPE - USA

competition. The United States thus broke the sequence of victories going to the home side, sweeping the singles 10-2 to win the match 17-11 and lead 3-1 in the biennial series that started in 1990.

The contest had been so spirited and even-handed since the Americans won the fourtimes 3½-½ on the first morning that no one expected the singles to be anything but hard-fought. "I wanted blue points on the board," Mickey Walker, the captain of the Europe team, said, explaining why she positioned Annika Sorenstam, Laura Davies and Liselotte Neumann, who are ranked first, second and third in the world, in the top four matches.

Yet Sorenstam, the US Open champion, was the only one of the three to win a point. Indeed, she was the only Europe player to win her match. The United States competitors played as if they had been shocked at finding themselves two points behind on Saturday night. They appeared to need no reminding that if they lost, the Walker, Curtis, Ryder and Solheim cups would all reside on this side of the Atlantic. Thus spurred on, they played with



One jump ahead: the United States team celebrate another success on the 18th green at St Pierre yesterday as Europe's attempt to regain the Solheim Cup fades away

the determination of hired assassins whose money would only be paid on satisfactory completion of their task.

Walker would surely have expected a more spirited display on the last day than she received. Only Sorenstam, Kathryn Marshall and Alison Nicholas were under par and Lisa Hackney was level. Perhaps too many of her team were tired. Davies, Sorenstam, Neumann and Catrin Nilsmark had played every match, whereas only Kelly Robbins did likewise for the Americans.

Davies could not reproduce anything like her form of Friday lunchtime. She had forecast that putting would decide this competition and it certainly settled her match against Michelle McGann. The sight of Europe's figurehead falling behind from the 3rd and eventually losing on the 16th summed up the day.

No one could doubt the intentions of the spectators who sat in the grandstand at

the back of the 1st tee. They were in full voice from the start, their chants, borne on the wind, echoing as far as the 11th green. Chorus of: "If you're European and know it, clap your hands," accompanied by a lot of stamping, sent one Europe player after another on their way.

Only Sorenstam showed any sign of staunching the red tide. "On Saturday evening we got together and decided that we had to stop Laura getting up the momentum of a runaway train," Dottie Pepper, of the United States, said. "We had to get out there not to lose but to win and I must say I was very gratifying every time I looked at the board to see there were red numbers up there."

Marshall, despite being under par herself, could make no progress against Val Skinner, who was out in 32, three under par. Neumann, who has been slightly off form all week, bravely matched a half from Beth Daniel by holing

from 12ft for a birdie on the 18th. On a day when the Americans putted well, Beth Daniel proved an exception with her attempt to match Neumann, missing one that would have given her victory.

Europe's other half was gained by Nicholas, whose doughty performance was in marked contrast to the way that Joanne Morley, Marie Laure de Lorenzi and Nilsmark all capitulated. Morley and Nilsmark began with sevens, de Lorenzi with a six. Rosie Jones, Patti Sheehan and Betsy King needed no further incentives and all three were three up by the turn.

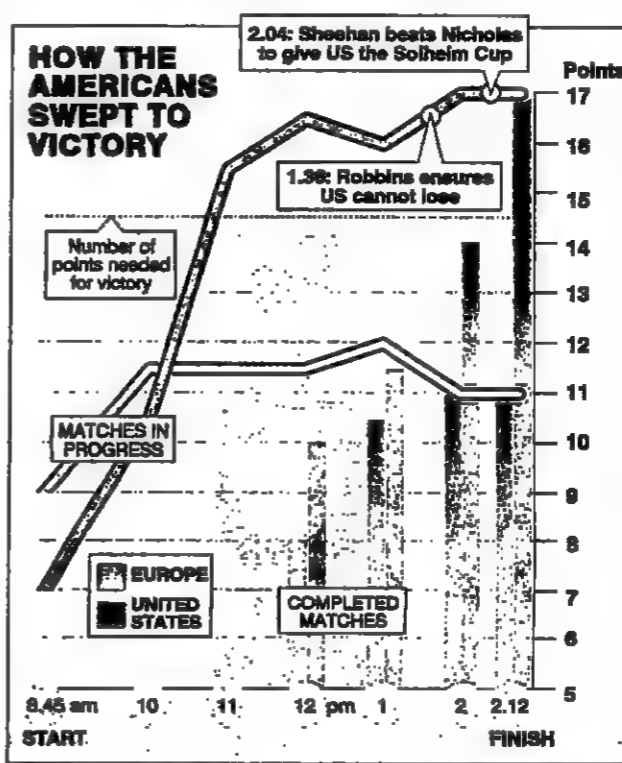
The United States got one hand on the cup when Brandie Burton holed an improbable pitch on the 16th against Hackney after hitting a drive way out to the right for the second time in as many holes. Hackney, who had fought back to one down and reached the green, must have been heartbroken and the long putt

that she holed for a birdie on the 17th only went some way towards consoling her.

Kelly Robbins made sure the Americans retained the trophy in a way that was appropriate for such an impressive player. One down to Nicholas on the 18th, she hit a magnificent two-iron that trickled over the green. From there she chipped and one-putted to halve with Nicholas.

Sheehan settled the match, her victory over Nilsmark giving the United States the fifteenth point moments before Meg Mallon comfortably dispatched a disappointing Helen Alfredsson, who had four bogeys in her last eight holes.

The previous afternoon Alfredsson, while supporting her team-mates by the edge of the 6th green, had held out her left hand to show off the callouses on it. "I am one hard-working girl — and don't you ever forget it," she said. Yesterday, all that work did not pay off.



Dominant Davies runs out of steam

Patricia Davies sees Europe's leading player struggle to bear the burden of carrying a continent's hopes of glory

level going into the final day. Davies was buried down at No 7. Yesterday, Davies was out third, where she came up against Michelle McGann.

In their team talk on Saturday night, the Americans reckoned that McGann, the 26-year-old Floridian, a striking, Junoesque figure, was just the girl to take on the world No 1. McGann has won three times already this season, most recently when she beat Davies in a play-off at the State Farm Rail Classic in Illinois at the beginning of the month, and is second only to Davies in driving distance on the LPGA (Ladies' Professional Golf Association) Tour. She averages 256.5 yards off the tee, with Davies averaging 260.9 yards.

On the 1st tee, the players posed together for the official photographs and the crowd teased McGann with a chant of "Where's your hat?" — she is famous for her dazzling

straw hats, but it was just windy enough for her to wear a baseball cap.

The American smiled, but looked very concentrated and composed, a look she maintained throughout. Davies outdrive her by 25 or 30 yards at the 1st, but the hole was halved in par five. Davies was missing from eight feet and McGann from a little nearer.



Davies drained

Davies had further birdie chances at the 2nd, 4th, 5th and 8th, driving level with the green at the latter, a par four of 309 yards, where McGann hit an iron for position, but parred them all. McGann, who played the more blenheim-free golf throughout, was two up at the turn, with birdies at the 3rd and 9th.

The atmosphere, like Davies, was flat, in sharp contrast to the day before. It was not until the 14th that she strayed from par — and she was over rather than under, hitting a tree with her drive and duffing a pitch. The error was compounded when McGann holed a six-footer for a winning par.

McGann then hit a cracker down the middle at the 15th and a subdued-looking Davies drove into the rough on the right. Attempting one of her specialties, she topped the ball. It looked all over, but McGann misjudged and put her

second shot into the water. The crowd perked up. Davies hit a lovely pitch and holed a six-footer to win the hole.

The 16th, a par three of 210 yards, is the feature hole and Davies had the honour for the first time in the match. Surely, this would be the fightback to spark a team revival. Davies sized up the shot, with a two-iron, wiped her brow and tried to dredge up something from somewhere. But this was her ninth event in as many weeks and the effort of the previous two days, four matches more intense than anything required before, had taken its toll. The shot was weak, short and right, the strike of a woman drained.

McGann, who had played the hole well from the first practice day and loved it, hit an imperious three-wood that looked good all the way and ran up to four feet from the pin. For the first time, she let herself go and exchanged a high five of the deepest satisfaction with Donna Early, her caddy. They knew it was all over. Even Davies could not get out of that.

Bjorn holds nerve to break the mould for Denmark

By MEL WEBB

TWICE this season Thomas Bjorn has led a tournament going into the last day. In August he faded to a final share of seventh place in the Scandinavian Masters; yesterday he topped that by a factor of about 20 by winning the grandly-named Loch Lomond World Invitational with a performance that combined a lorryload of determination and a bucketful of style.

Bjorn finished with a 70 for a total of 277, seven under par, a stroke ahead of Jean van de Velde, his French rival, with whom he slugged it out toe-to-toe over the final 36 holes. Robert Allenby was third, four shots behind the winner, with Colin Montgomerie and Jonathan Lomas sharing fourth place, a further shot adrift.

Bjorn came into this last day knowing that, if all went to plan, he would become the first Dane to win on the PGA European Tour, so there was an element of national as well as personal pride at stake.

It is not known if they were dancing in the streets of Silkeborg, his home town, last night: the Danes' place in ancient history is based more on raping, looting and pillaging than tripping the light fantastic, but one expects that modest celebrations were afoot. Bjorn won £125,000 — and that is a lot of Daneland.

"I knew, if I could keep up the sort of golf I had been playing over the other three days, I could win," he said. "There were a lot of good names behind me and I knew if they made an early move it could change things totally. Fortunately, they didn't."

Allenby was paired with Montgomerie in the penultimate group and, as the winners of three tournaments

apiece this season, it might have been expected that one of them might mount a charge. Instead, all they achieved was to hold the positions they occupied at the beginning of the day.

Bjorn, buoyed up by a good-luck message from Brian Laudrup, his fellow Dane, who plays football for Rangers, was level with Van de Velde through the turn, but the completion of the piece changed on the 12th and 13th holes. Van de Velde dropped a shot on the 12th, then Bjorn birdied the 13th. The 25 minutes those two holes took were more telling than the four hours that surrounded them.

Meanwhile, Nick Faldo's public display of affection for the Loch Lomond lay-out ran like a teenage love affair. It started on Tuesday with a declaration of admiration, continued on Wednesday, turned into total adoration after a 68 on Thursday and only started to turn sour during matching 73s on Friday and Saturday.

By late yesterday afternoon the grand passion was spent: Faldo's 77 saw to that. He looked increasingly frustrated as he bogeyed three holes in succession from the 5th and four more dropped shots on the way home, including a double-bogey six at the 14th.

His expression said it all: words were hardly necessary. Not that he said much, anyway. His post-round press conference consisted of precisely four words: "Played badly, very badly."

Further questions were ripped in the bud by his rapid evacuation in a buggy, stony-faced: there are times when Faldo could be cut for England, and this was a classic of its kind.

FULL DETAILS FROM ST-PIERRE

Europe names list

Fourballs
A Sorenstam and C Nilsmark halved with K Robbins and M McGann
L Davies and A Nicholas lost to P Sheehan and R Jones 1 hole
M-L de Lorenzi and D Reid lost to E Daniel and V Skinner 1 hole
H Alfredsson and L Neumann lost to D Pepper and B Burton 2 and 1
Fourfoursomes
Davies and J Johnson beat Robbins and P Bradley 6 and 5
Sorenstam and K Marshall beat Skinner and J Geddes 1 hole
Neumann and M Marshall lost to Pepper and B King 1 hole
Alfredsson and Nicholas halved with M Mallon and Daniel

Fourballs result: Europe 2½ United States 1½
Match positions: Europe 3 United States 5

Saturday

Fourfoursomes
Davies and Johnson beat Sheehan and Jones 4 and 3
Sorenstam and Nilsmark beat Pepper and Burton 1 hole
Neumann and Marshall halved with Mallon and Geddes
de Lorenzi and Alfredsson beat Robbins and McGann 4 and 3

Fourfoursomes result: Europe 3½ United States 1½
Match positions: Europe 6½ United States 5½

Fourballs

Davies and J Hackney beat Daniel and Skinner 6 and 5
Sorenstam and Johnson halved with McGann and Mallon
de Lorenzi and J Morley lost to Robbins and King 2 and 1
Neumann and Neumann beat Sheehan and Geddes 2 and 1

Fourballs result: Europe 2½ United States 1½
Match positions: Europe 9 United States 7

Yesterday

Singles
Sorenstam beat Bradley 2 and 1
Marshall lost to Skinner 2 and 1
Davies lost to McGann 3 and 2
Neumann halved with Daniel
Hackney lost to Burton 1 hole
Johnson lost to Pepper 3 and 2
Nicholas halved with Robbins
de Lorenzi lost to King 5 and 4
Alfredsson lost to Jones 5 and 4
Reid lost to Geddes 2 holes
Nilsmark lost to Sheehan 2 and 1
Alfredsson lost to Mallon 4 and 2

Singles result: Europe 2 United States 10
Match result: Europe 11 United States 17

HOW THEY PERFORMED

Europe	P	W	L	PS
A Sorenstam	5	5	0	24
L Davies	5	5	0	24
C Nilsmark	4	4	1	23
T Johnson	4	4	1	23
L Neumann	4	4	1	23
H Alfredsson	4	4	1	23
K Marshall	4	4	1	23
D Reid	4	4	1	23
A Nicholas	4	4	1	23
M-L de Lorenzi	4	4	1	23
D Pepper	4	4	1	23
B Burton	4	4	1	23
R Jones	4	4	1	23
M McGann	4	4	1	23
E Daniel	4	4	1	23
K Robbins	4	4	1	23
J Geddes	4	4	1	23
P Bradley	4	4	1	23

EQUESTRIANISM: UNTIMELY FAULT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR IN-FORM BRITON TO EXTEND SUCCESSFUL SEQUENCE

Nicholson's dawdle allows King to continue reign

By JENNY MACARTHUR

THE unstoppable Mary King gained her fourth significant success in as many weeks when she and King Solomon relegated Andrew Nicholson, her arch-rival, on Dawdle, to second place in The Blenheim Vauxhall Monterey International Horse Trials by 0.15pts. Both horses are eight-year-olds, and should renew their rivalry at Badminton next year.

Nicholson, who has been runner-up to King at Gatcombe and Burghley in the past month, came frustratingly close to topping her. Placed third after the cross-country, he achieved the only clear round among the top eight in the showjumping yesterday, but 0.75 time faults

allowed King to have one fence down and retain the lead. "It's the only time he's ever had a time fault," Nicholson said.

King had not realised that Nicholson was outside the time and thought that she had "blown it" when the ninth fence fell. "I couldn't understand why everyone was cheering at the end," she said. When she learnt of Nicholson's expensive time fault, she attributed it to his altruism. "He's such a gentleman," she said — within earshot of the bemused New Zealander.

Christopher Bartle, the Great Britain team dressage trainer, gained his best international result when he and Word Perfect, an eight-year-old by Lexington, on which he was fifth at Bramham, finished in third place — despite incurring ten penalties yesterday.

Bartle, whose sixth place in Los Angeles in 1984 remains the best Olympic dressage performance by a Briton, was one of only four riders to jump clear within the time on the substantially upgraded cross-country course on Saturday.

King, 35, who had a similar run of success in 1991, when she won five three-day-events in a row, had a more turbulent cross-country round. King Solomon, who is owned jointly by Frizzell, King's sponsor, and

Gill Robinson, spooked badly at the first fence and then put both feet on the flower bed adorning the front of the fence before scrambling over.

"It made us both a bit nervous," King said. "His eyes were on stalks for the first few fences." The cautious start contributed to the 4.8 time faults that they incurred.

Nicholson, who was clear within the time on Dawdle, was one of several riders who criticised the number of "corner" obstacles on the 30-fence course.

Keepers Corners, where Fippa Funnell, on The Turmaline Rose, who was in second place after the dressage, incurred 20 penalties, was followed shortly by The Vauxhall Double Trouble, a second double of corners,

where William Fox-Pitt fell on Tawny Owl.

"Two big corners close together with three short strides between them is not ideal," Nicholson said, "especially when horses have already done two corners earlier on the course."

Mike Etherington-Smith, the director and course designer, was unrepentant. "It was a strong three-star course, but I don't feel I overdid it," he said.

The experimental formula, whereby horses went in reverse order on Saturday, was not a success. With most of the less experienced horses going first, it gave an inaccurate impression of how the course was riding and was disappointing for spectators, who had to wait a long while before seeing any of the top names.



King: run continues

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FOOTBALL: CUTTING EDGE LACKING IN STALEMATE BETWEEN TEAMS WITH EUROPE ON THEIR MINDS

United finish with little to show

Aston Villa 0
Manchester United 0

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

HOW one pined for a Berger at half-time at Villa Park on Saturday. This is not a dig at the culinary hospitality of Doug Ellis, the Aston Villa chairman, but rather praise for the imported cutting edge of Patrik Berger, the Czech Republic player who put Chelsea to the sword with his left foot at Anfield.

In contrast, the 39,359 spectators packed so expectantly into Aston Villa's stadium knew from very early on that the 14 foreign individuals representing eight nationalities, and two of the most accomplished sides in England, simply could not or would not fashion a goal between them.

Manchester United, unbeaten in the FA Carling Premiership but having drawn four of their seven games, were not remotely in the form that brought four goals in each of their past two league outings. They created the clearer chances — both Giggs and the

Results and tables 30
Craven images 31

substitute, Cole, struck the frame of the goal — yet this was a tactical stalemate in the month of September when, as the Villa manager, Brian Little, observed, clubs are having to play seven matches and the international players among them are flying here and there to add to their workload.

Yet it had started with excellence. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, the Norwegian with the face of a choirboy, was preferred in the United attack to Cole, who must now be considered a £7 million reserve. Solskjaer, with a turn of pace and cunning to deceive Erling, whetted the appetite early on. And Southgate, improving month by month as the central player in a three-man Villa defence, demonstrated that players at the back can also use the body and the mind pleasingly; his deft control on the left side, followed instantly by his ability to bring the ball out and convert defence into attack, would have lit up the countenance of the England coach, Glenn Hoddle.

Those early executions of high skill were to be as good as it got. Cantona initially showed a willing-

ness to vary United's tactics by dropping deep to the right flank and ushering Beckham in-field. But it was not to last; Cantona became anonymous.

It was left to younger and less gifted individuals to try to put vigour into the finish. In the second minute, Jordi Cruyff, who once again looked painfully ungifted compared with his father, did oblige Michael Oakes, the goalkeeping son of a father who also played League football with distinction, to twist in the air and tip over a rising shot.

But Cruyff, later to be replaced by Poborsky, performed with more vigour than craft. The match around him grew fitful, the defences marshalled by Southgate and Pallister became comfortable masters. Beckham showed the frustration and a dangerous side of his temperament when he retaliated to a slight push from Staunton by grabbing the Irishman by the scruff of the neck, to incur one of the four yellow cards by which Stephen Lodge maintained control.

In such a match, the referee needed all the help and all the eyes he could call upon. Thankfully, this was one exception to the season when the referee, and linesmen we are being urged to call referees' assistants, produced their own teamwork splendidly. The booking for Keane, for a body-check on Draper away from the ball, was justified. The ruling out of a shot by Yorke, for a combination of offside and handball, was again the result of a linesman's alertness.

But, with the intransigence of the play still inviting spectators to take note of the referee's control, it was encouraging in the extreme the way Lodge maintained the flow of the game yet kept his grip. Ten minutes from time, for example, he saw Milosevic — big, willing but profligate with Villa's chances — crudely bring down Beckham. The official quelled Beckham's irate reaction, allowed Manchester United to try to profit from possession for fully two minutes and then quietly, calmly, walked up to Milosevic and issued his yellow card.

The exchanges between the players — Manchester United in yet another new colour, this time wearing white shirts and black shorts — remained controlled by defences. Pallister made an exceptional interception, a challenge that used the extremes of his long legs when Milosevic dithered in the penalty box. At the other end,



Keane slides in with typical aggression to challenge Curcic at Villa Park. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Southgate time and again read the play... but when he did not, Cole, heaving by now replaced Solskjaer, met a splendid cross from Giggs, best Cakes with his header but was denied by the width of the crossbar. Giggs, one on one with Oakes, had earlier shot straight at the goalkeeper, the ball rising off the body of Oakes against the post.

Villa, in reply, came no closer than an attempt at villainy. Sasa Curcic, such a pleasing, direct

player, attempted to steal a penalty when he dived to the ground claiming ridiculously that Raimond van der Gouw, the United goalkeeper making his debut in place of Schmeichel, who will be fit for the European Cup Champions' League on Wednesday after a stomach bug, had fouled him. There was no contact. The skill Curcic brings from Belgrade are most welcome, the habits of gamesmanship are not. But, into Europe:

Heisingborgs, of Sweden, playing host to Villa, and Rapid Vienna, visiting Old Trafford, are the next challengers to two teams who could not finish their approach work in the Midlands on Saturday.

ASTON VILLA (3-4-1-2): M Oakes — U Ebuog, G Southgate, S Staunton — F Nelson, A Townsend, M Draper, A Wright — S Curcic (sub: I Taylor, 85m), — D Yorke, S Milosevic.
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): R van der Gouw — G Neville, G Cole, H Berg — G Dorr, T Sheen, L Boffen, G Filford (sub: J Wilos, 45m), — K Gledhill (sub: G Fenton, 79), C Sutton.
SHEFF WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): T Fennell — J Stone, C Hendry, C Coleman, H Berg — G Dorr, T Sheen, L Boffen, G Filford (sub: J Wilos, 45m), — K Gledhill (sub: G Fenton, 79), C Sutton.
EVERTON (4-3-3): N Southall — E Barnes, C Short, D Unsworth, A Hinchcliffe — J Patterson, G Speed, A Lippert (sub: T Grant, 88) — A Kanchevski, D Ferguson, P Piddock.
Referee: D Ellery.

Cut-price imports threaten disaster for domestic game

STEVE McMANAMAN



On the negative side of overseas trade

THE visit of Chelsea's high profile foreign legion of players to Anfield on Saturday seemed to raise more questions than it answered. Before the game, people were saying that Liverpool would test just how well they had really fitted into English football and it's true that we felt we could put them under a bit more pressure than they had experienced up to this point. That was how it turned out, but I do not think it would be fair to judge how they coped because the game just got away from Chelsea, and you cannot blame the foreign players for that.

Overseas players coming into the English game has become a big issue now that the Bosman ruling has swept away the restrictions limiting their numbers. I think that is why there was so much interest in how Chelsea's imports would do at Anfield.

The game was played at a terrific pace, there wasn't much space to operate in and I got the impression Chelsea's new boys found that a bit suffocating. It's rare on the Continent for such a high tempo to be maintained throughout the game and they are still adapting. Of the three, Leboeuf impressed me with his passing skills, but Vialli and Di Matteo never really got into the game — or, more accurately, were never allowed to. They were getting frustrated, Vialli especially so, and were not seen in their best light.

It is clear, though, that they have done well this season and it can only be good for the English game to have players like Vialli over here. They bring so much with them, in terms of knowledge and technique, that can be copied by English professionals. Youngsters, too, are excited by the arrival of big-name players. They want to be like their heroes and it is no bad thing if they are trying to copy Juninho or Ravanelli.

But we are talking here about a handful of stars and what worries me immensely — what worries a lot of people in this game — is the rush of cheap imports that we have witnessed over the past few months. There is a real danger that such a trend could be killing the English game. It is something that we must look into quickly.

The English transfer system has spiralled out of control and so managers are looking abroad, where they can buy World Cup players at a fraction of the cost of English players from the Nationwide League first and second divisions.

Yet squads are getting full of them. At the moment, it feels as if clubs are buying any one journeyman on the strength of a video and it leaves little room for the young, home-grown players to come through. If we don't get the best youngsters appearing in decent numbers, then it can only have a disastrous effect on our game.

When I was a junior at Liverpool, it was an exciting time because all the kids were given a great chance of making the grade — I got into the first team at 18 — but now I'm not so sure it is happening and that can be disheartening. Liverpool and Manchester United went to great

lengths to find the best young English players because of the five foreigners rule in European competition. Bosman has removed that and what do we see? It is no coincidence that United went out and bought five foreign players, while even Liverpool's only summer signing was from abroad.

Nobody can argue with the quality of players like Patrik Berger, but there have been a lot of others who are not up to the grade. They come, take the money and then frequently fail, but it doesn't matter because they just move on and another takes their place. This whole process is stifling the development of the English game.

The Italian League has plenty of imports, but they are the best — the top English, Dutch and Germans. You do not see any cut-price signings from overseas ending up in Italy, but it seems to be the norm over here. There will be no easy solution until the English transfer market comes back to realistic levels, but what clubs must not do is ignore their youth structures, just because they can fill their squads with competent, cheap foreign imports. It might save money in the short term, but, in the long term, it is a recipe for disaster.

On a slightly different note, we had a rest last week while other sides played in the Coca-Cola Cup — a relief after the number of games that we have played since the start of the season — and as we prepare to go into Europe this week and other FA Carling Premiership sides face the second legs of their Coca-Cola Cup ties, a thought strikes me: instead of having two legs, why not just keep it a simple knockout, like the FA Cup? That way, it would reduce the burden of games and give players a free week.

I know the lower-division sides enjoy their games against the top clubs, but we could still ensure that they continue to do so by seeding the draw to guarantee them a home fixture against a bigger club. Everybody would be happy and it would give the smaller clubs a better chance, because surely it would be easier for them to beat opponents from a higher division if there were not a return leg.

Ferguson rightly punished for football's curse

Blackburn Rovers 1
Everton 1

By MARK HODKINSON

THE machismo of football is such that Duncan Ferguson will find his reputation enhanced by his deeds at Ewood Park on Saturday. With three minutes of a disjointed match remaining, Ferguson chose to develop Tourette syndrome, and began to issue a stream of profanities.

David Ellery, the referee,

booked him for the first utterance, and, when he refused to relent a minute later, sent him off.

Joe Royle, the Everton manager, defended his striker, claiming victimisation. "Is the ref trying to tell us that Duncan was the only player out there who swore today?" I intend to make my feelings known. There is an industrial language in football and I'm very, very unhappy about this. People will be talking about Duncan for the wrong reasons. I don't think he's committed a foul all season," he said.

It is well known that Ellery and swearing are, so to speak, sworn enemies. Last week he sent off Sunderland's Richard Ord for the same offence. Like most referees, Ellery can be dogmatic but, if the Scotsman's language was a notch or two above industrial strength, Ellery's response was just and not without a dash of heroism. Too often players swear and complain. We want to see skills and passion from the feet, not the tongue.

Ferguson's antics at least provided spice to a bland game between two teams determined to play

themselves patiently back into winning form, or non-losing form. The first gilded chance fell to Ferguson but he fired straight at Flowers.

Georgios Donis had no such problem. The Greek moved swiftly through Everton's defence and deposited the ball defiantly into their net. Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager, later referred to it as a "terrific" goal and to Donis as an "icing on the cake" player.

Everton responded immediately. Hinchcliffe's powerful left foot drilled a free kick into the penalty area and Unsworth deflected it

from his forehead into the net. Kanchevski had an absorbing duel with Berg but his finishing did not match his pace on the two occasions he dodged his marker. He mis-hit when put through by Rideout and failed to avoid Flowers as he ran in on goal with the Blackburn defence trailing.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T Fennell — J Stone, C Hendry, C Coleman, H Berg — G Dorr, T Sheen, L Boffen, G Filford (sub: J Wilos, 45m), — K Gledhill (sub: G Fenton, 79), C Sutton.
EVERTON (4-3-3): N Southall — E Barnes, C Short, D Unsworth, A Hinchcliffe — J Patterson, G Speed, A Lippert (sub: T Grant, 88) — A Kanchevski, D Ferguson, P Piddock.
Referee: D Ellery.

Sparkle fades on Atkinson regime

Sunderland 1
Coventry City 0

By IVO TENNANT

FOR a man whose reputation is based on a ready josh, bubbly drinks and glistening jewellery, Ron Atkinson is a techy man these days. He still looks himself — the sultan is permanent and his jackets are as garish as ever — but this masks an air of unease. He presides over a club that looks ripe for relegation.

Last season Coventry City remained in the FA Carling

Premiership, is beyond him at Coventry.

It would make sense to quit. He has said that this ought to be his last season, and that Gordon Strachan, his knowledgeable assistant, should have the chance to succeed him. There is media work to fall back on, a sense of humour to be resurrected. Where is the thrill in managing Coventry when you have known Manchester United and Atlético Madrid?

Coventry were dire on Saturday. Atkinson said so himself. "In the first half we were terrible. We did not drive the game hard enough, did not make enough things happen."



Atkinson: entertainer

Premiership on goal difference. They collected the same number of points as Manchester City and, although they are evidently in nothing like the same predicament now, they appear to be a team with few redeeming features. Money thrown at them seems to be money thrown away.

Atkinson deserves better than this, for he, and his teams, have always entertained. Come November, he will have had 22 years in football management. He has little left to prove and the achievement that he would

Barber blows the whistle on Derby

Sheffield Wednesday 0
Derby County 0

By PAT GIBSON

IT IS not going to be long now before some enterprising advertising agency realises that, rather than having their clients' names on footballers' shirts, they could get far better value by putting them on those garish new outfits which have destroyed the notion that the best referees are those who go unnoticed.

Opticians, for example, could have their services endorsed by men who can see things that thousands of other people cannot, pencil-makers their products promoted by inveterate scribblers who never seem to need a sharpener.

Once again at Hillsborough on Saturday, a disgruntled crowd went home talking not of the outstanding players, whose skills they had enjoyed, but of a man whom they had never previously heard of and, what is more, did not want to hear of again.

They were not alone. David Heat and Jim Smith, the managers of Sheffield Wednesday and Derby County

respectively, could not avoid the fact that Graham Barber's performance in booking nine players — three from Wednesday and six from Derby — had overshadowed anything that their teams could produce.

"We are not making any comment about the refereeing," Heat said, before coming up with a classic put-down. "Everyone needs time and this was only his third game in the Premiership." That brought a chuckle from Smith, who added: "And it could be his last. The refereeing was absolutely average."

Derby, who have taken ten

points from their first seven games, should have had two more but Gabbadini headed against the bar in the first minute and Daillly failed to beat Pressman from close range three minutes from the end. Wednesday's only real chance had come when Hirst hit a post in the 30th minute.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): K Pressman — P Altherton, D Walker, G Satterthwaite, I Holden — G Worthington, G Hyde, M Pemberton (sub: D Tashell, 80m), S Brierley (sub: S Oakes, 87) — D Reid, A Booth (sub: R Humphreys, 88).
DERBY COUNTY (3-5-2): R Hirst — G Fowler, I Smart, P Parker — J Laurien, L Corby, C Daillly, D Powell, C Powell — D Summerville (sub: P Simpson, 89), M Gabbadini (sub: A Ward, 77).
Referee: G Barber.

Donnelly puts case for development

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish commentary

A YEAR ago, the cancellation of some Oasis tour dates was the only frustration in Simon Donnelly's life. Then, the Celtic right flank was the youth wing of the team, where he and Jackie McNamara dashed into attack with the gusto of innocence. By the time summer arrived, Donnelly, 21, had played in all but one of Celtic's 36 Scottish League premier division matches.

On Saturday, the midfield player was irreplaceable again, finding as much enjoyment for himself as he gave to the spectators in a 5-1 win over Donfermline Athletic, but this was also the first league game he has started this season.

Setbacks are on the curriculum of most young footballers. Controlling their level of confidence is maddeningly difficult: too much leads them astray, too little sees them knocked off course when their career suffers its first blow. None of that, however, applies to Donnelly, who completed his training in self-

In the spring of 1994, Donnelly was introduced to the side as a forward, and the crowd doted on him. The manager of the time, Lou Macari, compared him with the young Kenny Dalglish, but that is a compliment of great weight and Donnelly appeared burdened in the months that followed.

It also became obvious that, until full maturity comes, his slight frame is too weak for the forward. It was the present Celtic manager, Tommy Burns, who noted the energy and adroit footwork and concluded that Donnelly would

have more impact on the wing.

His form did not fail there, but while Donnelly's life was coming along nicely, the club went haring off without him. At Celtic over the past year or so, a new stadium has erupted, attendances have soared and finances have boomed. But demands have intensified too. The only thing to have dwindled is patience.

Donnelly is a good player who ought to get better, but nobody can spare the time to let him develop. Celtic must win the championship this season if they are to stop Rangers from equalling their own record of nine successive titles and Burns needs instant excellence.

The manager is hardly to be blamed for deciding that Paolo Di Canio, the former AC Milan winger, who scored twice on Saturday, would have more impact than the young Glasgow-born alternative — no talk of long-term planning will provide any defence for him should Rangers be celebrating another

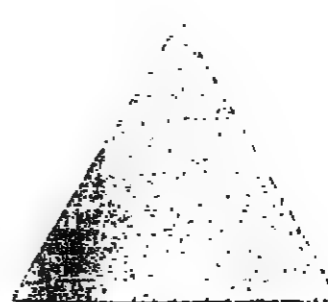
title in May — but while the lull in Donnelly's life may be unavoidable, it is also regrettable. The advance of his education is being slowed by the lack of appearances.

In some small ways, Celtic also suffer from deprivation when Donnelly does not play. The team, if fitness and consistency are maintained, might just break the 100-goal barrier this season, but this collection of individualists is hampered by a lack of cohesion that may prove costly in the most important matches.

The rapport that Donnelly and McNamara instantly re-established on Saturday only illuminated the lack of structure elsewhere in the side. While these youngsters did spend a season together, the main reason that they combine so well is that they come from the same age group, the same culture and the same country. A polyglot premier division has its delights, but the pleasure ought also to include the sight of local boys beginning to explore their own worth.



Maths.



Schmaths.



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FOOTBALL

Sheron bounces back to strike the decisive blow

Stoke City 3
Huddersfield Town 2

By RICHARD HOBSON

ON THE evidence of the first 45 minutes of play at the Victoria Ground yesterday, Mike Sheron was an unlikely hero. Huddersfield Town were ahead and cruising and the Stoke City striker could barely find a colleague with a pass from six yards.

He was not having a good day, yet it was he who had the last laugh, scoring twice in the last 20 minutes, including Stoke's winner six minutes from time, lifting his team into fourth place in the Nationwide League first division. They meet the leaders, Bolton Wanderers, at Burnley Park next Saturday.

Sheron now has eight goals to his credit this season, but Stoke's success also owed a good deal to the quality of crossing from Gerry McMahon, their £250,000 signing from Tottenham Hotspur, and the industry of Graham Kavanagh, on loan from Middlesbrough.

It was a real Roy of the Rovers comeback, the Stoke manager, Lou Macari, said. "The pleasing thing is that, where a lot of sides would have folded, we showed a lot of

resolve and deserved to pick up this great result."

The home side went behind after just seven minutes with a goal that bore a striking resemblance to Andy Myers's header into his own net at Liverpool on Saturday, a moment Chelsea would have preferred not to have been granted star billing on Match of the Day. This time, it was Nigel Worthington who suf-

The Football Association will study police reports before deciding on what action to take against Gary Poole, the Birmingham City defender, who was sent off for pushing the referee after he awarded a penalty in the 1-0 defeat at Manchester City. The FA will also look into crowd trouble involving Birmingham fans.

ferred the ignominy of seeing his cushioned header go beyond his own goalkeeper after Marcus Stewart had crossed harmlessly.

Stoke did fight back and Kavanagh had a strong effort parried away and a header cleared off the line by Makel, while Sheron volleyed over the bar from close range, but it was Stewart, with an instinctive shot that sneaked in off the far post, who scored next to

pull Huddersfield two goals clear after 35 minutes.

Crucially, Stoke began their recovery before half-time when Gayle slid in bravely to meet a low centre from Wallace. Sheron was a different proposition thereafter and it became apparent that Huddersfield were missing the strength of Sinnott, who had been carried off on a stretcher with a head wound after a collision with his colleague, Jenkins, after ten minutes.

Yet Stoke, with six of their first-team squad injured, had plenty of chances to recover the deficit before Sheron's header from a McMahon cross looped over Francis in the Huddersfield goal after 77 minutes. He followed that by shooting into the roof of an empty net when an effort from Wallace committed Francis and rebounded off the post.

"It is a very disappointing way to lose," the Huddersfield manager, Brian Horton, said, his clipped sentences and rolling eyes suggesting that he had spoken a little more bluntly in the dressing room.

STOKE CITY (4-4-2): C. Morrison — A. Williams, I. Spurdis, J. Dwyer, N. Worthington — G. McMahon, G. Kavanagh, R. Wallace, M. Davis (sub: K. Keen, 74min), M. Sheron, J. Sinnott. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN (4-3-1-2): S. Francis — B. Jenkins, R. Gray, I. Sinnott (sub: D. Collins, 10), J. Taylor — W. Burnett, D. Bullock, L. Makel (sub: R. Edwards, 83) — M. Stewart — A. Payton, I. Liverson (sub: P. Reed, 86). Referee: C. Wilson.

Feel-good factor fuels Fulham's revival

Keith Pike discovers

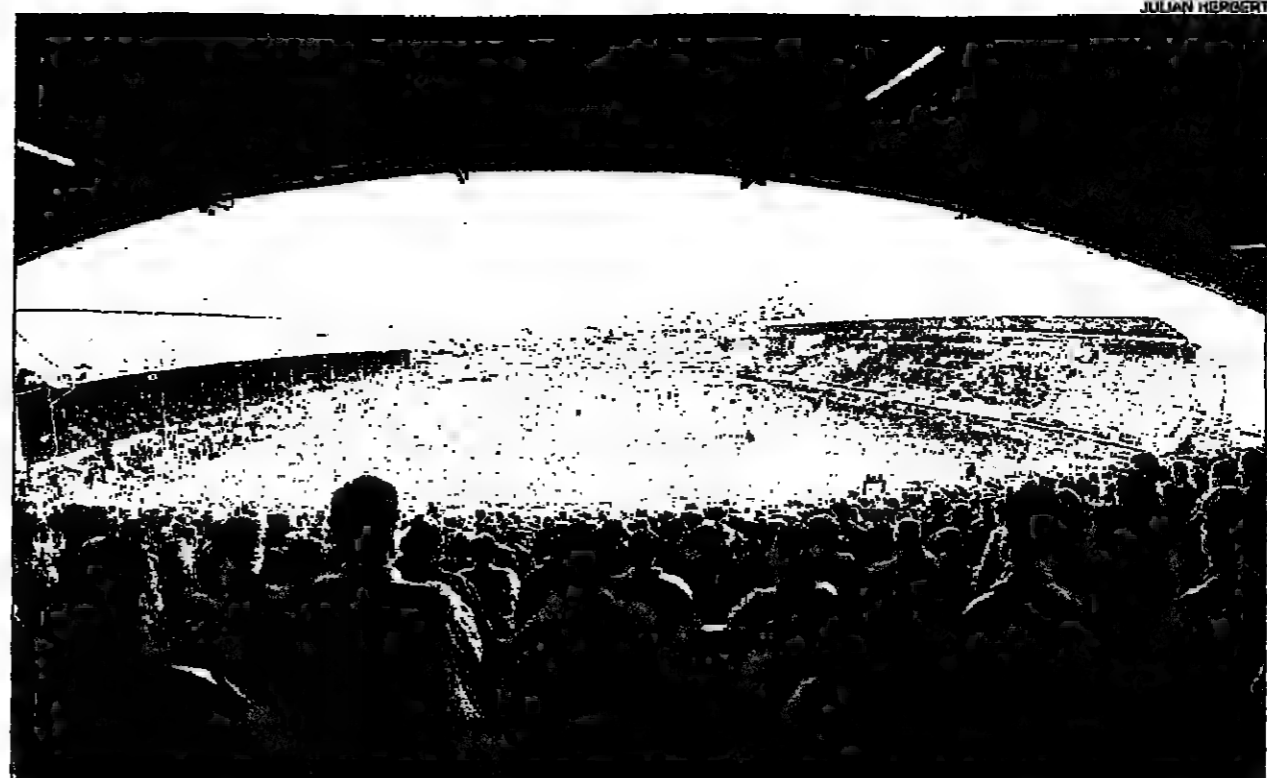
that defeat cannot dampen the optimism at Craven Cottage

Typical. Just when you thought it was safe to start talking about a Fulham revival, they come up with a performance like this. A glorious late summer afternoon by the Thames, and it transpires that all that sweetness and light was just another false dawn.

If it takes something special to make Mansfield Town look like world-beaters, Fulham were spectacularly good in losing 2-1 on Saturday. Outpassed, out-fought, out-manoeuvred, they were trounced, never mind the narrow margin of defeat by a team they were expected to brush aside.

All in all, it was just like old times. And that, of course, is part of their charm. Dear old Fulham — is there a football fan who does not have a soft spot for the club where Bobby Moore finished his playing days, where Best and Marsh were paired, where the players still change in a cottage? Eccentricities, quaint... a team to be taken apart on occasions, but never to be taken seriously.

It is an image that Micky Adams, at 35 one of the youngest managers in the game with one of the more demanding tasks, would love to dispel, and he has not made a bad start. "We are still top of the league," was the Adams mantra at the end of a hugely disappointing day in which he conceded that Fulham deserved nothing. "Look at the table and we're still there.



Although looking forward to a brighter future, Fulham supporters can only watch as their team lose on Saturday

Still top, and rightly so." Given the severity of Fulham's decline, being top of the Nationwide League third division has much to commend it.

Can Adams succeed where so many have failed? The fact that the club has now won the right to redevelop Craven Cottage means, he believes, that he has a fighting chance. "There is a feel-good factor about being a Fulham fan again," Adams said. "They have got the go-ahead for the ground and a team prepared to have a go. It was also a big plus for the players. But the fans are not daft. They want a winning team, too. There

were 5,700 here today. They would not keep coming back if we were playing rubbish."

It was a view confirmed by Chris Wheeler — season ticket-holder, life-long supporter and false-dawn phobic — as Fulham fell from grace after their best start to the season for a quarter of a century. "Getting planning permission for the ground means there has not been such optimism here since 1975 [Fulham's Cup Final year]," he said. "Not even a performance like that can spoil it."

It is strange to think that, only seven months ago, the club was in a state of turmoil.

Victories were scarce, crowds sparse and the terrace knives were out for Ian Branfoot, whose move "upstairs" to become general manager gave Adams his opportunity.

"We have made progress," Adams said. "I have got long-term plans for the club and myself. We'll see whether the club's ambition matches mine. Fulham is a big club. No disrespect to the likes of Mansfield, Rochdale and Scarborough, but they come here to the capital, with a big crowd and a magnificent stadium compared with what they've got, and they raise their game."

The neater, hungrier side, Mansfield registered their first win with goals in the 39th minute from Hadley, after a corner, and the 89th, from Harper, after another defensive blunder. Morgan's reply, ten seconds from time, was an afterthought to a day that perhaps revealed a team's deficiencies but a club's strength.

FULHAM (3-4-1-2): M. Walton — D. Chubb (sub: R. McVie, 57min), M. Blake, T. Angus — P. Watson, G. Cookson (sub: R. Scott, 51), S. Morgan, R. Harris — N. Cusack — M. Conroy, D. Freeman (sub: P. Brooker, 87). MANSFIELD TOWN (5-3-2): J. Bowling — P. Shetlock, S. Eastwood, J. Doolan, S. Walters, W. Hackett — S. Sedgemoor, J. Walker, D. Kerr (sub: S. Harper, 59) — S. Hadley, M. Hale. Referee: A. Brown.

Huckerby makes the difference for Millwall

Millwall 2
Crewe Alexandra 0

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

BAD news on Saturday for those scouts who tend to cluster round Crewe Alexandra looking for potential stars at bargain prices: the player who made all the difference in this game, scoring one of Millwall's goals and making the other, already belongs to an FA Carling Premiership club.

Darren Huckerby, on loan from Newcastle United, is a player who sees the white of the goalposts and sets off towards them by the most direct route possible, no matter how many defenders may bar the way. Everything else on the field looked irresolute by comparison.

Crewe's kit, for instance. All red with one white sleeve. It did not know if it was Arsenal or Liverpool. The team, with its preponderance of neat, short-passing, midfield players, favoured the latter option, but as Anfield's finest were accused of doing on occasions last season, they often played one pass too many. When something more direct was called for, they proved not to be too good at it.

There were other similarities. For Stan Collymore, read Dele Adebola, frustrating and not always punching his weight, but capable of good things. His 43rd-minute turn and pass to give the full back, Smith, a chance (which was wasted) began a period of Crewe ascendancy that ended on the hour when, with a perverse inevitability, Millwall took the lead.

Even then, it nearly went wrong. With Taylor, the Crewe goalkeeper, well off his line, Neill gained possession but crossed beyond the empty goal. However, Jason Dair, who had been the target for a frustrated crowd, rescued the situation, heading the ball back for Huckerby to volley in.

Inspired, Huckerby took on three defenders before shooting narrowly wide in a reprise of an earlier run. "The others are tentative playing at home," Jimmy Nicholl, the Millwall manager, said, "but he doesn't feel the pressure. He has a go and doesn't worry about what the crowd think."

As Crewe pressed forward, they left gaps, inevitably — launched another forward run. He allowed a defender to catch him, regained a yard of space and crashed the ball against the angle of post and crossbar. Dair scoring easily from the rebound.

MILLWALL (4-4-2): T. Carter — M. Davis, D. Wabbor, A. Weller, A. Rogan (sub: M. Hale, 72min) — R. Bown, L. Neill, R. Newman, J. Dair — S. Crawford (sub: C. Mahan, 83) — D. Huckerby. CREWE ALEXANDRA (4-4-2): M. Taylor — L. Unsworth, A. Westwood, S. McCauley, S. Smith — W. Barr (sub: C. Little, 77), D. Smith — R. Keweenaw (sub: S. Johnson, 84) — G. Huckerby.

Rioch content with low-profile start

Queens Park Rangers 1
Swindon Town 1

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

FOOTBALL knows no bounds for the incomprehensible, the ridiculous, the downright bizarre. Events at Queens Park Rangers last week started off straightforward enough, with Stewart Houston installed as successor to Ray Wilkins. On Friday, the twist in the tail was revealed, with Bruce Rioch announced as the assistant manager.

Thus, any self-respecting fly on the wall would have paid a handsome price to have eavesdropped the pre-match team-talk at Loftus Road on Saturday, before QPR's Nationwide League first division match against Swindon Town, when Houston, former No 2 at Arsenal and now No 1 at QPR, and Rioch, former No 1 at Arsenal and now No 2 at QPR, attempted to define their bewildering role reversal.

How did Rioch, so long the lead man and only once an assistant, for a two-month spell at Middlesbrough ten years ago, react to having to take a back seat? How did Houston, so long the nearly man and twice a caretaker at Arsenal, cope with his elevation? Was it not, just a shade, awkward?

Apparently not. "Bruce and I shared most things at Arsenal, it was that sort of partnership," Houston said. "I really don't think it will be that different here."

Rioch's participation was, understandably, limited. He had not seen a training session and, presumably, barely recognised some of the QPR youngsters who had to play

because of a glut of injuries at Loftus Road. It was a low-key introduction. At least Houston had the benefit of having witnessed the 2-1 win against Swindon at the County Ground last Wednesday, in a Coca-Cola Cup second-round, first-leg tie.

It was his first match in charge, his first as a fully-fledged manager, and it reached a satisfactory conclusion. Saturday, almost predictably, proved less invigorating.

QPR, eager to impress yet short on ideas, did their best in an honorable draw. Cove splendidly drove Swindon ahead in the 25th minute, in the second of the three league-and-cup meetings between the sides in eight days, and Murray equalised smartly two minutes later. Plenty of huff and puff, a petty 17-man skirmish near the end and contentment in most quarters.

Rioch, diplomatically, chose a low profile. Virtually unseen, certainly unheard, it was Houston, as befitted a No 1, who faced the inquisitors. "There was a lot of expectation and, with so many youngsters in, it was a bit of an effort for them," he admitted.

"I can understand why people have been flabbergasted at Bruce coming here, but he's a great asset. It was my choice to bring him in, absolutely, and I don't really find it that odd. I feel quite comfortable with it and Bruce does as well."

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (3-5-2): J. Sumner — C. Palmer (sub: M. Graham, 72min), A. McDonald, R. Brown — M. Jackson, P. Murray, S. Barker, M. Brazier, A. Incey — T. Smith, D. Dele. SWINDON TOWN (5-3-2): F. Tala — F. Dorris (sub: P. Allen, 57), I. Cullenhouse, M. Sedgwick, G. Ekins, K. Hackett — W. D. Sullivan, S. Latch, M. Walters — W. Allison, S. Cove. Referee: P. Riley.

Pretenders underline maturing potential

Slough Town 2
Hednesford Town 2

By WALTER GAMMIE

A MATCH full of spirited, attacking football at Wexham Park on Saturday served notice that the Vauxhall Conference title race should prove rather less procession than in recent seasons.

Slough showed their resilience to come from a goal down twice against the impressive Hednesford side and suggest their early challenge will not dissolve this season.

Brian McDermott, the Slough manager, said: "When we play to our potential, which we haven't been for the past three or four weeks, we will start winning matches again."

Mark West and Gary Abbott illustrated their menace up front with Slough's second equaliser, in the 61st minute. Abbott collected an awkward bouncing ball, swerved off on a run and teed up Bolt for a

earlier equaliser just before half-time by Stapleton was pure opportunism: killing a sliced clearance, he smashed a 25-yard shot past a startled Cooksey.

Stapleton's strike fired Slough back into a match over which Hednesford had gained an increasing stranglehold, with Joe O'Connor the game's outstanding force.

Slough discovered his potency when he raced away to put Hednesford in front in the 16th minute. John Baldwin, the Hednesford manager, said: "Joe's played in eight games for us this season and he's scored in seven of them. He's been at the club a long time but he just keeps getting better and better."

Street scored Hednesford's second goal in the 50th minute after Miles had dropped the ball.

SLOUGH TOWN (3-5-2): B. Miles — R. Smith, G. McDermott, S. Balam — G. Smith, G. Blackford, A. Clement (sub: B. Walton, 83 min), S. Stapleton, D. Bolt — G. Abbott, M. West. HEDNESFORD TOWN (3-5-2): S. Cooksey — W. Sneyton, S. Eddle, A. Corny — P. Carr, G. Fitzpatrick, C. Lamborn, B. McNulty. Referee: J. G. Preece, T. Tisdale.

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TENNIS

Short-sighted LTA overlooks Lloyd as chief executive

By DAVID MILLER

THE British have a debilitating, perverse activity, in sport, for scorning unusually talented coaches and administrators. Heaven knows, we need them enough, yet our governing bodies, over-endowed with backwoodsman elected anonymously from the counties, come out in a nervous rash at the thought of anybody with conspicuous qualities who might expose their own limitations and falsely-assumed security.

Geoff Dyson, in athletics, and George Raynor, in football, were driven abroad in the Fifties and Sixties. The Football Association schemed to reject Walter Winterbottom, the world-renowned coach, as general secretary and elected instead Denis Follows, a former rugby-school master, who in turn prevented Sir Stanley Rous, even more renowned, from becoming FA chairman. Bobby Moore, sadly, was never considered for any job.

The athletics establishment so resented Frank Dick and David Shaw, outstanding coach and administrator respectively, that each eventually fled elsewhere. And willowing exploit to the full the fame enjoyed by Steve Redgrave? I doubt it.

The all-rounders' record for myopia, however, has been held unchanged for 50 years by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), the equivalent of a chicken farm that never managed to lay an egg. In the next few weeks, it will be revealed

that the LTA, guided by head-hunting advisers, has contrived to resist appointing as its new chief executive the most exceptional candidate any sport has ever had.

David Lloyd, the former Davis Cup player and subsequently coach and business entrepreneur with a record remarkable by any standard, is captain of the British team that has just climbed another rung on the Davis Cup ladder. It takes more than the young Tim Henman to make tennis nationally important, never mind that the LTA has a budget of £40 million per annum. Lloyd could have been the man to revolutionise a moribund game, yet although the LTA summoned the nerve to appoint their sternest critic as captain — a 30-days-a-year job, maximum — the prospect of making him chief of staff



Lloyd: inner fire

was, presumably, too frightening.

Frighten everyone Lloyd would, for sure. His biography* reveals every aspect of a driven man: A player of moderate ability, compared with his brother, John, but almost demonic self-motivation, he responded to the financial and imaginative bankruptcy of a game locked in outdated middle-class contentment, by creating a chain of modern leisure centres so socially innovative and successful that in the past year Lloyd sold out to Whitbread for £180 million.

Along the way, having years been exasperated by the uncompetitive provincialism of British coaching, Lloyd joined forces with the financier, Jim Slater, to create a juniors' scheme that found and helped to develop Henman. That, too, was more than the LTA could stomach.

To have now made Lloyd succeed to Ian Peacock as chief executive would be to overthrow instantly the entire national coaching structure, together with the soporific administrative policies of the traditional clubs; the *laissez-faire* which has denied Britain a grand slam or Davis Cup title since Fred Perry's days.

Lloyd has much of that channelled inner fire which drove Perry. A suspect backhand meant that he could never be a champion on court, though he is famously remembered for a superhuman Davis Cup doubles performance against Italy in the Seventies that turned a crisis, two matches down and two sets and a match point down in the doubles, into an exhilarating victory. "Today," wrote Rex Bellamy, of *The Times*, on the morning of the reverse singles, "Italy will remember yesterday." They did.

It would be unfair to say that the LTA under Peacock made no ground. There are 800 indoor courts compared with 150 when he was appointed ten years ago, and training centres in 26 cities. The LTA spends £6 million per annum on training and coaching, £6 million on grass roots and £8 million on facilities. A lot, perhaps, for little reward, though in successive years, Britain's juniors have distinguished themselves in the under-14 world championships.

Leading foreign coaches have been hired, such as Ian Barclay, Peter Fleming and Olga Morozova. Yet Lloyd would still intend radically to overhaul the coaching structure, centralising and demanding the same hours and dedication as in the creation of his leisure empire, dismissing the idle and advising the lesser players, sympathetically but objectively, not to waste their time.

The LTA under Lloyd would have experienced the brutal management and reorganisation it still requires. It had not the courage to take the risk. Not to the game, but its own securities. It is wholly wrong that the perceived "future" of British tennis is being irrelevantly loaded on to the slim shoulders of one promising young player, instead of on the imaginative energy of a driven man with a dream already fulfilled once in the private sector.

When you want something done, look for a doer, the way Churchill appointed Beaverbrook, an aggressive Canadian newspaper tycoon, to get built the fighter planes needed to win the Battle of Britain.

*David Lloyd: How to Succeed in Business While Really Trying, by Richard Evans (Bloomsbury, £17.99).

Britain face winter of doubles dealing

By ALIX RAMSAY

AS PARTIES go, the farewell to No 1 Court at Wimbledon lacked a little fizz yesterday. Great Britain's Davis Cup tie against Egypt had been decided on Saturday, when Mark Petchey and Neil Broad won the doubles — just — to give the home team an unbeatable 3-0 lead. Promotion to group one of the Euro-African zone had been assured and, for the 6,000 or so spectators, there was only the nostalgia of the moment to savour.

When the time came to draw the arena's illustrious history to a close, it all seemed like an anti-climax. Ann Ghoneim hit the last ball — a double fault — as he lost 6-4, 6-2 to Greg Rusedski, so ending Egypt's weekend with a 5-0 defeat. The net was handed over to the All England Club to be placed in the Wimbledon museum and the spectators filtered away slowly, taking one last look at the famous court.

Even the court attendants hung around looking a little lost. Taking their time to pull the tarpaulin over the turf for the last time, they finally did the deed to a ripple of applause.

Tim Henman had done his bit to keep the excitement going, playing the first match of the day at 11am. Looking like a man who had celebrated not wisely but well the night before, he took his time to dispose of Tamer El Sawy, the Egyptian No 1, 6-7, 6-2, 6-2. It was a match of two halves as, this being Wimbledon, it was played around a rain delay. He looked lethargic at first, but came back considerably sharper.

So far David Lloyd's three-year plan to get Britain back into the world group appears to be on course. However, even he, over the enthusiasts, knows that life among the bigger boys will not be so

easy. Whether Austria is among their number remains to be seen. They lost their world group qualifying tie to Brazil after Thomas Muster was defaulted. He stormed off court during the fifth set of the doubles, claiming the crowd had been abusive and someone in the stands had been using a mirror to dazzle him.

"For 3½ hours we were sworn at and spat at," Muster said. "If this is the Davis Cup, I don't want anything more to do with it."

The match referee, Antonio Flores Marques, from Portugal, did not agree. Muster was defaulted and, although the Austria team could have used a replacement for the remaining singles yesterday, they simply refused to play, handing the tie to Brazil 4-1. Depending on the outcome of a meeting of the Davis Cup Committee on October 7, Austria could be punished with further demotion to group four.

With or without Austria in their group next year, Britain are likely to be seeded, which could leave them just two matches away from the world group. In order to get past the higher-ranked opposition, Lloyd needs to find a reliable doubles team. On Saturday, Petchey looked to be ill at ease throughout, leaving Broad to do most of the work until the final set.

Lloyd claims the possibilities are endless — Petchey and Broad, Henman and Broad, Rusedski and Broad, or the untied pairing of Henman and Rusedski. When suggested, the latter did not seem to fill Henman with glee and would also leave Lloyd with a two-man team with which to take on the world. If Britain are seeded and receive a bye in the first round, Lloyd at least has until April to solve the problem.

Edberg ready for final fling

STEFAN EDBERG will have the opportunity to bring his distinguished career to an emotional end in the Davis Cup final on November 29. Edberg will be attempting to claim his fourth Davis Cup winner's medal after Sweden secured a decisive 3-1 advantage in their world group semi-final against the Czech Republic in Prague.

The victory was assured by Thomas Enqvist, who fought back from 2-1 down to beat Daniel Vacek in an epic 3½-hour match yesterday. The Czech Republic had kept their hopes alive by winning the doubles on Saturday.

"I was very upset after the break in the fifth set. It was an emotional match, one of the toughest I have ever played," Enqvist said.

Austria defaulted their match against Brazil in São Paulo yesterday after complaining of receiving death threats from the crowd.

Thomas Muster, the world No 3, accused the Brazilian spectators of acting "like animals" after walking off court during his doubles match on Saturday. He claimed spectators threw things, spat at players and Austrian officials heard death threats.

The International Tennis Federation will investigate his claims, but a spokesman said: "In the opinion of the referee, Antonio Flores Marques, Muster's complaints were not justifiable."

Muster said: "It was absolutely impossible for me to go out on court again. I want police protection and will nev-

er again play here. This country should be punished. If this is Davis Cup, I don't want anything more to do with it. The people here are like animals." Paulo Cetto, the Brazil captain, said: "This is certainly the most stupid excuse I have ever heard. Nobody is shot because of tennis."

Great Britain completed an impressive 3-3 victory over the United States in the Maureen Connolly Trophy in Austin, Texas yesterday. Megan Miller, the British No 1, overcame Stephanie Mabry 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

Mandy Wainwright and Jo Ward then completed Britain's fourth successive success in the 24-year-old tournament, with a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Mabry and Tara Snyder.

Johnson still paying the penalty

Sarah Potter on the hockey player who is struggling to accept a miss that cost Britain an Olympic medal

Think of a penalty miss and you think of Gareth Southgate. Tearful and dejected, it was as if, in that one moment, the weight of the nation's sorrow and scorn sat squarely and unfairly on his boyishly brave shoulders. Think harder, though, and you might remember another name. Kath Johnson.

It was her penalty-stroke failure in Atlanta that ensured the Olympic bronze medal for women's hockey went to Holland and not, as had happened in Seoul four years earlier, to Great Britain.

The irony of such comparison is not lost on Johnson, who, at 29, has 180 caps to her name and, like Southgate, had an outstanding tournament. "Our squad was in Spain as part of our build-up to the Olympics when Euro 96 was taking place. We watched the football shoot-out on television. Everything went quiet. We all felt so disappointed and we weren't even involved."

With the glittering prize so close and so precious, it is no surprise to find that the pain and isolation felt by the professional is just as real for the amateur. "I was devastated," Johnson said of her own miss. "I was waking up for weeks afterwards and it doesn't matter what people say. I will never forget that sinking disappointment."

She has, at least, an ally in her team-mate, Karen Brown. Such is Brown's skill and reputation that hockey pundits would have bet their sticks on the Slough player converting her stroke. When she failed to do so, Britain were still level with Holland but it sent a ripple of shock through her team-mates.

"Forget the crowd, the cameras and everything else," Brown said, "the overriding feeling was that I had let my team-mates and management down." Brown said she still finds it difficult to talk about but feels she shares a special bond with Johnson. "We actually made a sort of pact in Atlanta to 'phone each other. Everyone deals with it in different ways but only we know what it felt like."

Johnson is dealing with it by taking a break from the game. The Leicester defender, who lives in King's Lynn, has played international hockey for nine years and is now



Johnson is enjoying more time with her son, Daniel, as she takes a break from the game

enjoying time with her family. "The build-up to the Olympics was fairly intense," she explained in her Norfolk accent. "I am back at work full-time and am loving my weekends at home. I am just not geared up to play yet."

Work for Johnson is as a computer operator and a he-

ctic home life revolves around husband Peter and 18-month-old son, Daniel. Having such a young child makes it all the more remarkable that she regained her fitness in time to take her place in Atlanta, something that she concedes she could not have done without a grant from the

Foundation for Sport and the Arts, that enabled all the players to train full-time for the six months leading up to the Games.

The boundary lines between professional and top-level amateur sport are now often so indistinguishable as to mark virtually the same



The Great Britain players cannot hide their despair after Johnson's miss in Atlanta

Suspension of offside rule sparks goalscoring spree

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

THE universal suspension of the offside rule encouraged some high goalscoring performances by first division clubs in the men's National League on Saturday.

Beeston opened their campaign with a 4-0 victory at home over Hull but were made to work hard for their victory. Stephen Muffin, who shares the duties of coach with Pete Taylor, said: "We were nervous at first and just managed to cross over with a 1-0 lead. However, in the second half our game began to flow."

After being held in check for 23 minutes Beeston went ahead when Longden converted a penalty stroke. He increased the lead in the 59th minute and further goals followed in the closing stages from Hammond and Morris.

The day's top marksman was Dean Enon, who scored all Gloucester City's goals in their 5-0 home win over Trojans. After putting his side 2-0

ahead in the first half he added three more goals as the Trojan defence fell apart, two of his goals coming from penalty strokes. Midway in the second half Gloucester lost Tredgett, who was sent to hospital for treatment to a cut ear.

Jeremy Boyse hit the target four times for Lewes in their 8-2 victory at Bromley. In the early stages the scores were level at 1-1, Swan equalising for Bromley after Faithful gave Lewes the lead. But between the 16th and 38th minutes Boyse added four goals for Lewes, the first from a penalty stroke, two from short corners and one from open play.

Sam Crutchley's goal in the last minute enabled Firebrands to snatch a 4-3 victory at home to Stourport. Only a minute earlier, White had levelled the score at 3-3 for Stourport, who were behind all the way.

Results page 41

Hightown take advantage of Clifton's absenteeism

By ALIX RAMSAY

HIGHTOWN began the defence of their women's hockey national league title yesterday with a fortunate 2-1 win over Clifton. Their cause was helped from the start as Clifton were severely depleted, missing Michelle Robertson, Ann Bevan and Rachel O'Bryan, their three Wales internationals.

The umpire also appeared to help the Hightown challenge when, after 20 minutes, she awarded a penalty stroke which Linda Carr converted. Yana Williams relished the chance to get one over on her old club ten minutes into the second half when Claire Burr, the Clifton goalkeeper, cleared the ball straight to Williams's stick and she thundered it back into the net. Denise Marston-Smith salvaged some pride for Clifton midway through the second half, converting a penalty corner.

Slough, who under the guidance of their new coach, John Shaw, are aiming for their fifth national league title, made an impressive start to the

season with a 3-0 win over Leicester. Having signed several new players to boost their under-strength squad, they were forced to do without Lucy Cope, Sarah Kelleher and Anna Bennett. One new recruit, Jane Smith, made an immediate impact, scoring two goals in two minutes. Mandy Nicholls scored the third in a match where Slough had numerous chances.

Ipswich thought that they were heading for three points against Sutton Coldfield after Sarah Bamfield and Debbie Rawlinson had given them the lead but Lisa Lee had other ideas. She scored the equaliser after 63 minutes having scored Sutton's first goal ten minutes after the break.

Trojans found the going tough in their first premier division match losing 2-1 to Doncaster but Alton, newly promoted to the first division, celebrated their arrival in the upper echelons with a 7-1 thrashing of Blueharts.

Sport gives red card to national academy

John Goodbody on the Government's blueprint for a centre of excellence that falls foul of Britain's leading sports bodies

a "green-field site", as the Prime Minister has repeatedly announced. They view this idea as a waste of money.

Nor do they want the academy to include extensive training facilities, such as a 50-metre swimming pool and an eight-lane athletics track, residential accommodation, with competitors, some on scholarships, staying for long periods at the centre. These ideas are all included in the prospectus.

Instead, the majority of governing bodies would prefer the academy to be the hub of a network of centres that concentrates on support services, such as sports medicine and sports science. They want the preparation of elite performance to take place in their own national academies of excellence, specific to their own sports, and also at regional centres of excellence.

After the Sports Council had consulted the national governing bodies, it submitted a prospectus for the national academy. However, the National Heritage department changed the criteria before publishing the final prospectus. Although British sport certainly wants an academy, most organisations do not want it to be a new building on

Here are the views of some leading governing bodies, as recorded in the prospectus:

Athletics: "... does not believe all the specialist facilities needs of the multi-disciplinary sport of athletics can be met at the academy ... the academy will not provide a dedicated training base for British athletes."

Badminton: "There is no requirement for badminton to have a national training base at the academy."

Canoing: "It is not envisaged canoeing re-locating its national training facilities to such a site. The existing national training base for canoeing is at Holme Pierrepont."

Cricket: "... requires its own 'sustained' training facility to promote technical development at the highest level of cricket ... ideally this facility should be established independent of other sports."

Football: "... wishes to

establish a national structure for developing excellence in English football. The FA would like to see this based on either a national football academy being developed around the existing FA National School at Lilleshall, or as a national football academy becoming an integral part of the British Academy of Sport."

Gymnastics: "It is not essential for the academy site to incorporate specific training facilities for gymnastics."

Rugby union: "... is strongly opposed to the creation of more national training facilities over and above those already provided throughout England."

Sailing: "... believes the academy should be a small, cost effective, co-ordinating venue providing a lead and support to a network of sports specific facilities throughout the UK."

Swimming: "Plans are well

advanced within the sport for the development of a national swimming academy, based at Loughborough University."

Tennis: "... does not believe that specific training facilities must be provided at the academy."

Iain Sproul, the Minister for Sport, is in favour of an academy, based on the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in Canberra, which was set up after the 1976 Olympic Games. However, he appears to have ignored the fact that, in many activities such as athletics and tennis, the standard in Australia has declined since the AIS came into operation.

The Government has also exceeded its powers by announcing that "a substantial sum of National Lottery money could be available to help fund bidders for the Academy". Only the Sports Council can decide where lottery money for sports projects can go.

I suspect the Government only wants an academy so that it can include the proposal in its election manifesto.

He came, he scored, he conquered — and left

A year is a long time in the Premiership. Alex Fynn, co-author of a new book, opens a series by revealing how Tottenham Hotspur won and lost Jürgen Klinsmann, the German who was the darling of English football for one memorable season.

To compound Ossie Ardiles' first catastrophic season in charge, the summer of 1994 saw the Football Association impose swingeing penalties on Tottenham for supposed financial irregularities over a period of years prior to chairman Alan Sugar's arrival. It had been Sugar, himself, who had exposed the bulk of these irregularities — which mainly took the form of undeclared "loans" to players. Sugar co-operated in the Premier League and FA investigations, in the belief that such co-operation would result in lenient treatment. This proved to be wishful thinking.

The FA clobbered Tottenham to a degree without precedent among the so-called big clubs: a fine of £600,000; a docking of 12 points for the next season; and a ban from the 1994-95 FA Cup competition.

Sugar took the matter as a personal slight, and his legal team set about getting the penalties overturned. Success was partial, with a halving of the points deficit from 12 to six, which at least lifted the threat of almost certain relegation for the year ahead. But the fine was increased to £1.5 million, and the FA Cup ban stood.

While two sets of lawyers locked horns before eventually agreeing to abide by the findings of an independent tribunal, Sugar snapped into action. No way was he going to allow the FA to scupper his season as punishment for crimes committed by others. They could take away his points, but they could not take away his money well only a fraction of it.

Ossie was given a budget for new players and promptly scooped two of the genuine superstars of world football. First in, for £2.5 million, came Ilie Dumitrescu, a hero of Romania's World Cup campaign and, in particular, their victory over Argentina. Next, word reached Sugar that Jürgen Klinsmann — a striker so famous that even Sugar had heard of him — was out of contract and up for grabs. Another two million quid.

Sugar knew that signing the German World Cup star, to go with Dumitrescu, would be a massive boost to the club and also to his own personal standing with the fans and within the game. If it also told the FA where they could stick their fine, points deduction and FA Cup ban, then so much the better.

Although foreign imports were now an accepted part of the English league's make-up, Klinsmann would represent, without doubt, the biggest coup yet. For possibly the first time ever, England's top division was able to compete with the Continental giants for the superstars of world football. Not only was the money available in never-before-seen amounts (through sponsorship, TV and merchandising), but also the Premiership had gained international credibility, helped in no small measure by the increasing number of countries who were taking live television feeds of the weekly action.

The experience might even prove to be instructive for the glamorous imports, as a competitive edge would have to be added to even a virtuoso's repertoire as a prerequisite to Premiership survival. Wages for short-term contracts could be spectacular, hefty signing-on fees could provide a tolerable cushion against a lifestyle that might compare unfavourably with those in more hedonistic Barcelona, Milan or Monaco.

Prospective signings could be assured of favourable media attention and lucrative commercial opportunities. A year or two in London (or Manchester) was not that bad a prospect and any on-field success would be on a stage closely monitored throughout the football world.

Klinsmann had, in fact, been wooed by Bayern Munich during and after the 1994 World Cup. However, his opinion of his own worth proved an insurmountable barrier to the fallen German giants. "He had," according to Franz Beckenbauer, the Bayern president, "salary demands that we could not meet."

Most clubs in Europe would have gladly signed Klinsmann, but very few were prepared to compromise their prevailing wage structure by accepting terms that so demonstrably favoured the player. Besides, to return to Bayern for the 1994-95 season would once again mean working under Italian coach Giovanni Trapattoni, with whom Klinsmann had already fallen out during their spell together at Inter Milan.

The contract that formed the agreement between Jürgen Klinsmann and Spurs was a testament to the relative positions of both parties. Spurs wanted Klinsmann badly. Klinsmann could afford to dictate outrageous take-it-or-leave-it terms knowing that, sooner or later, he would get exactly what he was asking from someone.

For a start, he proposed no more than a two-year contract. This was born from his bitter experience at Monaco, where he clashed with the tactical approach of the coach, Arsène Wenger, to the extent that the German striker felt he had wasted a valuable final year there. Although he felt that the Spurs manager, Ossie Ardiles, would be a kindred spirit on the way the game should be played, Klinsmann could not allow himself to become trapped again.

Any contract would have an earlier "get-out" clause to exercise should he feel the need. A further clause favoured by Klinsmann stipulated that any club that sold him would have to do so for no more than their initial purchase price: a ploy that enabled Klinsmann to move on continually at increasingly favourable terms.

Sugar was surely mindful of the potential for disruption that anyone earning £1 million a year could wreak on his existing squad. Nevertheless, he was adamant he would get his man. A compromise deal was thrashed out where Klinsmann's wages were a relatively modest £7,000 per week, but a "London living" allowance and a hefty signing-on fee brought the total annual remuneration to around £1 million and, hence, led to the widely-reported £23,000 per week figure. Klinsmann was happy for the media to perpetuate the myth of his superstar salary, while Sugar was honour-bound to preserve his player's ego.

And so Jürgen Klinsmann signed for Sugar and for Spurs.

And the move was everything that Sugar could have hoped (and even dreamed). The media went crazy, and, amid a flurry of bad puns (Jürgen King! Herr-fiet Jürgen Klins! Kln the money! Our Herr-of Now Jürgen-a believe us! Two suka one in! Kln with a shout), Klinsmania was born. Jürgen's easy-going attitude, perfect English and non-clichéd soundbites had the media over the moon and eating out of his hand. Home fans queued to have his



Despite the personal terms agreed with Sugar, Klinsmann soon endeared himself to the Tottenham fans. His goalscoring celebration was widely imitated



name spelt across the back of their replica shirts, while Klinsmann Hotspur on the road became the country's all-ticket top draw (Spurs at Elland Road in October attracted a bigger crowd than the FA Cup semi-final at the same ground six months later).

On the pitch, Jürgen smashed a personal best of 20 goals that season (and was hugely instrumental in Teddy Sheringham's not inconsiderable tally of 23). Bar one game at Goodison Park, which

intention of seeing out the remaining year of his contract. Worryingly, he would not do so, amid speculation, and soon confirmation, that Franz Beckenbauer had earmarked his countryman to become the final piece in the restructured Bayern Munich jigsaw.

Since his accession to Bayern's presidency in November 1994, Beckenbauer had instilled a realistic appreciation of the cost of assembling a team capable of

on fee — terms that almost doubled the German's earnings at White Hart Lane. Perhaps more important was that Bayern, under Beckenbauer, had determined to do exactly what Alan Sugar wanted to do at Tottenham — build a championship-winning side. However, unlike Tottenham, Bayern were not prepared to sacrifice a transitional season. With a new coach, Otto Rehhagel — who had failed to win by one point the title for Werder Bremen when his new club beat them in the last game of the season — the signals were clear: a revitalised Bayern with Klinsmann in attack, alongside new signings Strunz, Sorza and Herzog, together

with Jean-Pierre Papin and Lothar Matthäus returning after injury, going all out for the German championship in year one, followed by an assault on the Champions' League in year two. Klinsmann had always been polite when commenting on Tottenham and the fans, but there was no denying that Bayern, playing in Munich's Olympic Stadium and commanding home crowds twice the Spurs average, really were in a different league. The German Bundesliga was en-

joying a resurgence that saw average crowds exceed 30,000 and boast a strength in depth that surpassed the Premiership's league-within-a-league hierarchy.

Just about every member of the national side was now back playing league football in Germany after their dalliances with overseas clubs. Add the attraction of finishing his career on home ground, plus the thinly-veiled assurances given by Beckenbauer that Jürgen would have a coaching career with Bayern when his playing days were over, and you couldn't really argue with Klinsmann's decision to jump ship.

Against all those Fatherland comforts, the debts of staying at Tottenham were beginning to mount. Spurs had failed to qualify for Europe again and were far from being potential title-chasers. The side was heavily weighed down with journeyman; there was still no midfield genius who could appreciate and reward Klinsmann's runs and feints (as previously Cascoigne had with Linaker). Gerry Francis (who replaced Ardiles as manager in November 1994) had turned his team into a functioning unit, but the consequence of this was that Klinsmann was expected to play his full part in defensive duties — a chore few strikers relish.

Klinsmann was also concerned

at the number of games he was expected to play — the previous Christmas and new-year period had come as a shock to his system, as had the myopic referees who had consistently refused to protect him despite some serious penalty-area butchery. No wonder thoughts of his second nightmare season at Monaco returned. Klinsmann had to ask himself why he should play a second year for Spurs when he could play fewer games in a better team for more money in his own country?

On the afternoon of Thursday May 11, 1995, the media were summoned to The Comedy Cafe in central London, where Jürgen announced his decision to leave Spurs in just three days' time. "If anyone's to blame," Sugar confessed, "it's me. I signed Jürgen to solve a problem, and I've created another one. Maybe that's part of the learning process for me. Gerry looks more deeply into things."

Extracted from *Dream On*: a year in the life of a Premier League club, by Alex Fynn and H Davidson, published by Simon & Schuster Ltd on October 7 at £14.99.

Problems in the transfer market and how Tottenham missed out on a big signing.

'Spurs wanted Klinsmann badly so he could afford to dictate outrageous personal terms'

challenging for major honours. He was determined to leave a presidential imprint on the club; adamant that Bayern should no longer live in the shadow of the side he had captained to three successive European Cup wins between 1974 and 1976. His objective was simply stated: "Bayern should resume its position among the Euro mega clubs on a regular basis".

Beckenbauer offered the 30-year-old Klinsmann a three-year contract worth £1 million a year, with a further £1.6 million signing-

with Jean-Pierre Papin and Lothar Matthäus returning after injury, going all out for the German championship in year one, followed by an assault on the Champions' League in year two. Klinsmann had always been polite when commenting on Tottenham and the fans, but there was no denying that Bayern, playing in Munich's Olympic Stadium and commanding home crowds twice the Spurs average, really were in a different league. The German Bundesliga was en-

Local rivals call time on Queen Anne's reign

By John Goodbody

IF LITTLE is certain in any sporting contest, this is particularly true when matches are of shorter duration than is customary.

Queen Anne's School, Caversham, were clear favourites to win their own invitational seniors lacrosse tournament on Saturday. They have been national champions in six of the past ten years. In March, they shared the title with Haberdashers' Aske's but have already beaten their co-holders this term.

Lacrosse is such a demanding game physically that, in a tournament compressed into 4½ hours and with the finalists having to play a total of five games, the matches last a maximum of 16 minutes. This compares with up to 30 minutes for a full-length fixture in the under-18 age group.

In the final on Saturday, Queen Anne's met Downe House, their Berkshire rivals, who had just beaten Chel-

ham Ladies College 3-1 after extra time in the semi-finals. This extended period of play further handicapped Downe House for the final, which took place after only the briefest of breaks.

Queen Anne's 10 semi-final winners over St Swithun's, Winchester, began the match showing vigour and enterprise but, as their head of PE, Judy Gorrie, said: "The occasion and their eagerness to win unnerved them. We made too many mistakes, particularly with our basic stick-work skills."

Downe House played with aplomb. Their opponents, under pressure because of the lack of time, became increasingly frenetic and were deservedly beaten 2-0.

Downe House also have a distinguished recent pedigree in the national championships, having reached the semi-finals in each of the past five years.

Sarah Butt, their coach, said: "I think we could do even



IN SCHOOLS

better this year. We really gelled today."

Like Downe House, Queen Anne's have toured the United States, where lacrosse originally developed, this year. Lizzie Kennerley, 17, who has already been invited to attend England squad training sessions, was struck by the difference in the American style of play compared with that in Britain.

"They observe the rules much more strictly," she said. "You have to be careful not to get penalised. You have to

wear gumshields by law over there, here it is just advised.

"The Americans run with the ball so much. Their schools even have specific fitness instructors and the players have a pact not to drink or smoke during the season." Queen Anne's lost only one match on tour, their final fixture, when they conceded two goals in the last two minutes to be beaten 15-13 by Unionville HS, in Pennsylvania.

A principle reason for Kennerley going to Queen Anne's, which is a girls-only, largely boarding, school on the edge of Reading, was because of her interest in lacrosse. "I saw everyone coming in muddy and thought 'Yep, that is what I want to do.'"

The school has had a good run of success, Gorrie said, because "the girls take pride in representing the school, and the younger ones are inspired by the older ones; it is a self-perpetuating thing."

Kennerley now plays as cover point in defence, the lacrosse equivalent of a sweeper in football. "You have to anticipate where the ball is going to be in two passes' time and watch the overlapping of our defence."

Nicola Speller, the team captain, likes lacrosse because "we all have to work for each other. You do get pretty tired. Half the battle is getting fit for the matches." As boarders, the pair can run together every night in addition to their regular three or four training sessions a week.

Speller said: "We concentrate on specific moves round the goal. We have code names for them so that everyone knows what we have to do."

That is something on which they will be concentrating over the next fortnight. Gorrie said: "On October 5, there is the Berkshire schools tournament and we want to play Downe House again." There was meaning in her voice as she said the words.



Queen Anne's and Downe House players contest possession in the final on Saturday

RUGBY UNION

McGeechan lays sound foundations for future

Northampton 41
Orrell 7

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

OF ALL the clubs in the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship, Northampton have made the transition from the amateur to the professional era better than most. They already had many of the business structures and the financial support in place and, last season, they were playing the fluid, entertaining rugby in which most of their new peers now aspire.

That style has translated from the second division to the first. Ian McGeechan, their director of rugby, acknowledges that the first division contains bigger, more tactically-aware players, but he has the personnel to overcome any difficulties. More to the point, he believes he is creating a generation of players, down through all the club teams, who want to play in the same, entertaining fashion.

The style demands its own discipline, as well as mental concentration and a high degree of fitness. "The more often the situation on the field changes, the better players they will become," McGeechan said. His team at Franklin's Gardens on Saturday supported him to the hilt.

There is a clarity to McGeechan's observations that is much appreciated: a year ago, he was talking of a European club structure that is now, notionally, in place. Now he speaks of the need from the Rugby Football Union (RFU) of a comparatively small financial gesture as the key to unlocking the crisis between the union and the clubs, and the prospect of the British Isles, whom he will coach in South Africa next summer — playing a three-match series against incoming tour teams as the climax to games against each of the home unions.

Yet the game's complex politics were not on McGeechan's mind after a less than archetypal Northampton performance. They created more problems for themselves than they solved in a first half that saw only one of the game's eight tries scored — and, for that, a gritty defensive display by Orrell must take some credit.

Poor Orrell. How they have worked these past 20 years to

be part of England's elite and now, under-resourced and cutting their cloth accordingly, they stare up at the rest of the division.

Even when they believed they had attracted the multi-talented Franco Botica, from Castleford, to bring on their youngsters, they found him lured away by Llanelli, with whom they now have a dispute over compensation — said to be around £60,000, which, in these over-inflated days, might buy a London club a half-decent forward.

Even so, they can find a player, like Rob Hitchmough from West Park, with enough talent to attract the attention of the RFU's talent-spotting squad: Ian Metcalfe and Ian Peck were both at Franklin's Gardens to assess the form of, among others, Hitchmough at full back, only for the Botica dispute to move him to stand-off half, where he made a fair fist of matters even while Orrell's prospects drained away in a second-half onslaught.

Though he was there to assess the form of Gregor Townsend, Scotland's assistant coach, David Johnston, will have borne word about the two Northampton flankers north of the border: Pountney, from the Channel Islands, has expressed interest in Scotland and MacKinnon, who turned up from Australia via Grenoble last January, has that venerable qualification, a Scottish grandmother.

Within four minutes of the interval, Northampton had fatally damaged Orrell's always-slim hopes. Delightfully creative passing worked tries for Rooder and Hunter playing his first game of the season at full back — and, thereafter, only a charged-down try by Tuigamala earned the Lancashire club any relief. Bell's brace in the final quarter hammered down the coffin lid, and Orrell's frustration earned Angelsea a yellow card, which might have been of a different hue had not the game been all but over.

SCORES: Northampton: Tries: Bell (2), Townsend, Rooder, Hunter, Dawson, MacKinnon. Conversion: Grayson (2). Orrell: Try: Tuigamala. Conversion: Tuigamala.

NORTHAMPTON: 1. Hunter, 2. Bell, 3. Townsend, 4. Bell, 5. Thornicroft, 6. Grayson, 7. Dawson, 8. Volland, 9. Clarke, 10. Sawyer, 11. MacKinnon, 12. Phelps, 13. Pountney, 14. Rooder.

ORRELL: 1. Taberner, 2. Naylor, 3. Lyon, 4. Tuigamala, 5. Heppell, 6. Hitchmough, 7. Goble, 8. Lendon, 9. Scott, 10. Turner, 11. Angelsea, 12. Cusack, 13. Paves, 14. Clayton, 15. MacKinnon, 16. MacKinnon, 17. J. MacKinnon, 18. MacKinnon, 19. MacKinnon, 20. MacKinnon.

Dizzy Harlequins in need of sobering thoughts

Simon Barnes sees the league leaders march on with an error-strewn victory at Bristol

When he was the coach of England, Dick Greenwood pronounced: "The amateur has an inalienable right to play like a pillock." He was talking about the traditional English forward-dominated, "up-your-jumper" rugby league expressions are in vogue in union circles right now — style of rugby union.

An amateur, the traditional rugby belief states, has no obligation to please anyone but himself. He is there for the fun of it and, if he wants to lie in the mud with the ball underneath him all afternoon, that is his business. And, if anyone wants to turn up and watch, even to pay money for the privilege, that is his. An audience, even an audience of millions which, via a television company, has paid millions, certainly does not impinge on this inalienable right.

Fast-forward a dozen years, and watching Harlequins go to Bristol to win 35-24 will be like watching the Harlequin Globetrotters win against whoever it was they always won against. No cheerleaders, doubtless they will come, but any moment you expected to hear the Globetrotters' theme tune, *Sweet Georgia Brown*.

Afterwards, Dick Best, the Harlequins director of rugby, was getting all trembly-lower-lipped about various rotters who have criticised the death-bed conversion of rugby union to "entertainment". "If this had happened anywhere abroad, you'd all be applauding it," he said. "Two sides, so positive, scoring tries, and the game is about scoring tries."

Well, Harlequins ran in another four on Saturday, plus a penalty try. There was lots of good stuff to applaud, too. But the catalogue of errors on both sides was quite horrendous. Most handling errors in either code of rugby come from bad passes: balls that should not have been thrown. The score



Wood, of Harlequins, leaves Denney in his wake and prepares to hand off Jones as he advances on the Bristol line. Photograph: Adrian Sherratt

would have been far closer to a proper basketball score had each side not been so eager to capitalise on each other's errors that they promptly made errors of their own.

Rugby people traditionally look forward to the spring, when bouncy turf and a dry ball will allow the boys to "spin the ball out again". Oddly enough, as this autumnal try-glut continues across the country, rugby types are looking forward to the coming of the rains and the pitch that will take a long mud.

What they are really looking for, I think, is for the pendulum to settle for it has swung from the self-conscious pragmatism of the past to the opposite extreme of vaudeville

rugby. It is time to sober up and add purpose to the manic error-strewn, game-plays.

Bristol, with limited playing resources, try to play it tighter than most. Feeding on a fitful start by Harlequins, they shoved their way to a ten-point lead. Leads are harder to sit on these days, however.

There are two sorts of spoiling plays, legal ones and the other kind: a kind that forwards got away with in the past. Now referees pick them up all the time. Thus Staples brought Harlequins back into it with a sharp touchline run and then came the penalty try. You get at least one of these per game this season, a powerful disincentive to previously acceptable forms of cheating.

There was much to enjoy, especially the Harlequins centre pairing of Carling and Connolly, a rugby league man from Wigan. Connolly is one of those wonderfully watchable complete rugby players and Carling seemed determined to show him that he could have made a decent league player himself.

Carling has never possessed much grace, but his courage, timing and upper body strength give him the precious ability to unload the ball in tackle after tackle. Connolly, who knows that support play is the heart of the running game, was always there to snap up the little shovel passes as Carling went down. They should be quite a double act by

January — when Connolly returns to Wigan. Perhaps he should take Carling with him. Carling is, after all, a man in need of a new purpose in life. His magnificent period as England captain under Geoff Cooke's management is now being talked about, by those obsessed with the vaudeville spirit of the age, as a kind of Dark Age from which England have emerged triumphant.

Carling has stood out against the players' boycott of England practice sessions, a move made only slightly less emphatic by the fact that he was not asked to attend them in the first place. His faintly dilapidated attempts to play stand-off half and to under-

take the place-kicking — he experienced mixed fortunes with the latter on Saturday, landing one beauty from the touchline but missing two others, one a sinner — indicate a restless spirit.

He is not sure of his role in life any more. He is suffering from an identity crisis. But then so is his sport.

SCORES: Bristol: Tries: Conarty, Breeze, Connolly, Shaw, Conversion: Tarrant (2). Harlequins: Tries: Staples, Wood, C. Carling, Connolly, penalty try. Conversion: Carling (4). Corcoran.

BRISTOL: 1. Bennett, 2. Tipl, 3. Walters, 4. Durrant, 5. Breeze, 6. Burt, 7. Jones, 8. Collins, 9. Hagan, 10. Hagan, 11. Connolly, 12. Shaw, 13. Adams, 14. Carling, 15. Hagan, 16. Connolly, 17. Connolly, 18. Connolly, 19. Connolly, 20. Connolly.

HARLEQUINS: 1. Staples, 2. C. Carling, 3. Connolly, 4. W. Carling, 5. Connolly, 6. Connolly, 7. Connolly, 8. Connolly, 9. Connolly, 10. Connolly, 11. Connolly, 12. Connolly, 13. Connolly, 14. Connolly, 15. Connolly, 16. Connolly, 17. Connolly, 18. Connolly, 19. Connolly, 20. Connolly.

Rigorous test finds Bath accelerating nicely

Gloucester 29
Bath 45

By NICHOLAS ANDREWS

WHILE they are the first to admit that the engine is not yet in tune and the bodywork still needs further polish, the Bath machine is at least back on the road. The wheels did not exactly come off with defeats by Leicester and Wasps, but the successive reversals did represent an unprecedented setback for the perennial league champions.

It was never going to be an easy ride at Kingsholm on Saturday. That Bath managed seven tries brought

them much satisfaction. "We scored 45 points, which is great," Phil de Glanville, the captain restored to the centre, said. "If [JC] [Callard] had had his kicking boots on, it would have been 60. There was a lot of pressure on our side and, at times, it showed."

Indeed it did. The stirring victory over their West Country rivals last April was already a distant memory and some stayed away from Kingsholm fearing a rout, but Gloucester never said die. They took a 17-15 lead five minutes after the break and, even at 22-38 with eight minutes to go, Gloucester fought them back with a richly deserved try.

"That was a bit of the old Gloucester," Richard Hill, director of coach-

ing at Kingsholm and a former Bath scrum half, said. "The Bath players knew that they had been through a game. When I had to play against them, that was what we got."

Bath have committed themselves to a brand of fast, flowing rugby that means they pay a heavy price when things go wrong. Two passages of play summed up the problem.

Jason Robinson is an exciting prospect on the Bath wing but, in his desire to keep the ball alive, the Wigan rugby league player took the wrong option just before half-time. A good old-fashioned hoof into touch would have done very nicely when he raced back to field a probing Mapletto kick to the corner. Instead,

Robinson sought to bulldoze his way out of defence. He was isolated and Mapletto cut the deficit to three points from the resulting penalty.

Then, five minutes after the restart, Guscott tapped and ran from deep inside his own 22. He was tackled, turned over and Gloucester set up the move that saw Deacon score in the corner to put his side ahead.

That Bath survived to triumph through tries from Adebayo (two), Nicol, Ojomoh, Catt, Callard and Jason Robinson said much for the character and determination questioned a week before. "The nature of the game is such that you are going to get high-scoring matches," John Hall, the Bath director of rugby, said

afterwards. "I don't think there is anything wrong with our game."

While still without a win, Hill was boosted by the improved fitness that brought Gloucester three second-half tries: "I feel a lot happier. I can see there's a will to win, it's just the little things we have got to get right."

SCORES: Gloucester: Tries: Deacon, Sims, Greening, Conversion: Mapletto. Penalty goals: Mapletto (4). Bath: Tries: Adebayo (2), Nicol, Ojomoh, Catt, Callard, J. Robinson. Conversion: Callard (2). Penalty goals: Callard (2).

GLoucester: 1. Deacon, 2. Sims, 3. Greening, 4. Mapletto, 5. Mapletto, 6. Mapletto, 7. Mapletto, 8. Mapletto, 9. Mapletto, 10. Mapletto, 11. Mapletto, 12. Mapletto, 13. Mapletto, 14. Mapletto, 15. Mapletto, 16. Mapletto, 17. Mapletto, 18. Mapletto, 19. Mapletto, 20. Mapletto.

BATH: 1. Callard, 2. Robinson, 3. de Glanville, 4. Adebayo, 5. Catt, 6. Nicol, 7. Ojomoh, 8. Ojomoh, 9. Ojomoh, 10. Ojomoh, 11. Ojomoh, 12. Ojomoh, 13. Ojomoh, 14. Ojomoh, 15. Ojomoh, 16. Ojomoh, 17. Ojomoh, 18. Ojomoh, 19. Ojomoh, 20. Ojomoh.

Fickle fate befalls the Irish

London Irish 19
Sale 25

By PETER BILLS

HANDS thrust deep into his trouser pockets, Clive Woodward wore an expression of concern at the close of this match. And why not? As a friendly Irish voice said out of earshot: "I wouldn't like to be coach of that lot."

One could understand his point of view. London Irish, battered the previous week 60-7 at Harlequins, made the perfect start to this crucial Courage Clubs Championship encounter, followed it with a dire half-hour in which they handed Sale 22 points, then proceeded to dominate the rest of the game.

Giving any opponents in the first division a 19-point start is a risky strategy, yet Irish nearly escaped from the large pit they had dug for themselves. Such was the passion and intensity of their forward driving play that Sale were

dingling precariously to their advantage for the remainder of the match.

As the Sale player-coach, John Mitchell, said: "The Irish are a passionate people and they play with their heart. But, unfortunately for the Edies, they were chaotic. Had they spread the ball wide a few more times, they might have scored."

How a coach tries to make sense of such a startlingly erratic and inconsistent performance is anyone's guess. For, in addition to their other failings, Irish missed tackles all over the field in the opening half-hour.

The most critical was Bishop's failure to nail Mallinder as he collected Humphrey's chip through to the Sale line. The full back, impressive until his early departure, instigated a 95-yard move that ended with Ryan's try at the other end.

That score, plus others by Stocks and Warr in the first 17 minutes, gave Sale the decisive advantage after a second-

minute dropped goal by Humphreys.

Salts were rocked by the fury of the Irish reply, yet none could mistake their impressive shape and formation. They looked the more cohesive unit and they played attractive, purposeful rugby when the chance was offered.

What they lacked, until Mitchell appeared for the last 20 minutes as a substitute, was the streetwise quality that New Zealanders regard as second nature. As for the Irish, a difficult season looms unless they can discover more composure and greater ability in certain positions.

SCORES: London Irish: Tries: Hulse, Humphreys, Humphreys, Conversion: Humphreys (2). Dropped goal: Humphreys. Sale: Tries: Stocks, Warr, Ryan. Conversion: Stocks (2). Penalty goals: Stocks, Warr, Ryan.

LONDON IRISH: 1. Hulse, 2. Hulse, 3. Hulse, 4. Hulse, 5. Hulse, 6. Hulse, 7. Hulse, 8. Hulse, 9. Hulse, 10. Hulse, 11. Hulse, 12. Hulse, 13. Hulse, 14. Hulse, 15. Hulse, 16. Hulse, 17. Hulse, 18. Hulse, 19. Hulse, 20. Hulse.

SALE: 1. Mitchell, 2. Ryan, 3. Ryan, 4. Ryan, 5. Ryan, 6. Ryan, 7. Ryan, 8. Ryan, 9. Ryan, 10. Ryan, 11. Ryan, 12. Ryan, 13. Ryan, 14. Ryan, 15. Ryan, 16. Ryan, 17. Ryan, 18. Ryan, 19. Ryan, 20. Ryan.

Scots rally the have-nots

London Scottish 42
Waterloo 30

By ALISON KEVIN

SCHADENFREUDE had permeated the air of every clubhouse in the country when this season got under way, as the day's results flickered on to television screens in rowdy, post-match bars. Richmond, that smooth, international-filled, millionaire-backed club, had drawn with Coventry, a rival that announced itself £150,000 in debt a few months ago — proof, at last, that the team effort is greater than the sum of its players, whatever their value.

London Scottish players, who share a ground and club facilities with Richmond, must have found it more difficult than most to smother a sly smile at the news. How much fun must it have been to see Brian Moore, Ben Clarke and six other internationals arriving for training and to see Richmond posters, flags and

colours plastered all around the town?

Yet, despite Richmond's plethora of internationals, London Scottish are above them in the table, having won all their games this season and on Saturday, they went a step further on the road to proving that they are an outfit to be taken seriously by beating Waterloo, another of the division's non-spenders.

Waterloo scored after just five minutes through David Thompson, converted by Chris Thompson — the wing brought into the side to bolster their kicking effort. A penalty and a converted try for Waterloo through Simon Wright was balanced by a penalty and tries for Graeme Smith and Max Duthie.

The first half lacked pace, vision and self-belief but, for the second week running, London Scottish enjoyed a resurgence in the second half. Waterloo added just 13 points to their score — a try from Paul White and kicks from Chris Thompson. Scottish, in

contrast, sent Steele over after a beautifully-weighted pass from Eriksson. Duthie went over for his second try of the day and Eriksson touched down himself.

Interestingly, the Scots now have an investor themselves, though not in the same league as Richmond. Tony Tarkis, a Monaco-based millionaire, has officially "bought" the club and is in the process of negotiating contracts and new signings. Nevertheless, in the meantime, the bizarre relationship between the haves and the have-nots will continue in Richmond.

SCORES: London Scottish: Tries: Duthie (2), Smith, Steele, Eriksson. Conversion: Steele (4). Penalty goals: Steele (3). Waterloo: Tries: D. Thompson, Wright, White. Conversion: C. Thompson (3). Penalty goals: C. Thompson (2).

LONDON SCOTTISH: 1. Robinson, 2. Smith, 3. Steele, 4. Eriksson, 5. Wright, 6. Wright, 7. Wright, 8. Wright, 9. Wright, 10. Wright, 11. Wright, 12. Wright, 13. Wright, 14. Wright, 15. Wright, 16. Wright, 17. Wright, 18. Wright, 19. Wright, 20. Wright.

WATERLOO: 1. Thompson, 2. Thompson, 3. Thompson, 4. Thompson, 5. Thompson, 6. Thompson, 7. Thompson, 8. Thompson, 9. Thompson, 10. Thompson, 11. Thompson, 12. Thompson, 13. Thompson, 14. Thompson, 15. Thompson, 16. Thompson, 17. Thompson, 18. Thompson, 19. Thompson, 20. Thompson.

Evans revels in new role as Llanelli come from behind

Llanelli 30
Swansea 17

By GERALD DAVIES

IEUAN EVANS has scored a fair few tries in his time. Some of them, for club and country, are etched in the memory. He is fleet of foot. But this season, through force of circumstances, he is putting his right foot to additional use.

For the moment at least, he has become Llanelli's goalkicker. It is odd, somewhat disconcerting, to see him stranded near the touchline aiming for the posts, instead of that swaggering gait jogging back to the halfway line after his team's score.

Evans took over the role two weeks ago during a match, but on Saturday he had been given the job an hour or so before kick-off. There was sympathy for him: no one wants to see a hero embarrass himself with an unfamiliar task. No one needs have worried. He had already succeeded with two penalties inside the first five minutes. By half-time, he had added two more and, by the end of the match, he was scoring tries as well. Apart from Proctor's try, Evans scored all of his team's points.

But prolific points-scoring of this kind will not last for long. On Friday, Llanelli completed a deal to bring Franco Botica, whose contract was with Castleford but is now with Orrell, to play at Stradey. A sore hip

denied him the chance of playing over the weekend but he will be available next Saturday. Evans can then return to his solitary stance on the wing.

But for Proctor, in fact, all of the points the game produced would have been scored by two players. The 17 that Swansea gathered came from Arwel Thomas. Slight of frame, an observer might fear for his life among the beefier players, but he is brave, has a quick eye, and takes the chance when it presents itself.

After Evans's early penalties, and on Swansea's first foothold inside the home team's 22-metre line, Thomas took advantage of a gap between Boobyer and Davies in Llanelli's midfield. Selling a dum-

my, the gap widened and he scored beneath the posts.

Evans, by now sure-footed to the point of nonchalance, kicked two more penalties. After another penalty, Thomas, thanks to good work by Gibbs, Appleyard and Booth, came away on the blind side. A dummy scissors, with the sweetest of movements to Harris, opened a narrow stretch along the touchline for the stand-off half to score his second try. He converted both, but this lead appeared too slim to hold.

If these were two were evenly-matched teams, the crucial difference for Llanelli was the work of Cooper and Voyle in the lineout and the energetic and comprehensive involvement of Wyatt in the back

row. Within four minutes of the interval, Evans brought the scores level with his first try.

His audacious, 50-metre penalty then gave Llanelli the lead and, after Thomas had missed a kickable penalty for Swansea, two superb tries by Proctor and Evans gave them a deserved victory.

SCORES: Llanelli: Tries: I. Evans (2), Proctor. Penalty goals: I. Evans (2). Swansea: Tries: Thomas (2). Conversion: Thomas (2). Penalty goal: Thomas.

LLANELLI: 1. Proctor, 2. Evans, 3. Evans, 4. Evans, 5. Evans, 6. Evans, 7. Evans, 8. Evans, 9. Evans, 10. Evans, 11. Evans, 12. Evans, 13. Evans, 14. Evans, 15. Evans, 16. Evans, 17. Evans, 18. Evans, 19. Evans, 20. Evans.

SWANSEA: 1. Evans, 2. Boobyer, 3. Gibbs, 4. Harris, 5. Thomas, 6. Booth, 7. Buckland, 8. Jenkins, 9. Evans, 10. Evans, 11. Evans, 12. Evans, 13. Evans, 14. Evans, 15. Evans, 16. Evans, 17. Evans, 18. Evans, 19. Evans, 20. Evans.

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CRICKET: SELF-BELIEF INSPIRED BY LEADERSHIP OF WHITAKER ENSURES TRIUMPHANT FINALE AT GRACE ROAD

Leicestershire spirit away title honours

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LEICESTER (final day of four): Leicestershire (24pts) beat Middlesex (4) by an innings and 74 runs

FINALLY, even the most sceptical ran dry of reasons to doubt them. Leicestershire won the county championship because they played the most consistently convincing cricket of the many pretenders to the title this year. They won it because they had the best team, if not the best players. And they won it because they believed that they would.

James Whitaker, a highly motivational captain, was inextricably linked to his players, and anyone else who cared to listen, that nothing was beyond them. Phil Simmons enforced this philosophy with the help of those who are well-known, such as David Millns and Alan Mullally, and those, such as Vince Wells and Adrian Pierson, who are not.

"It hasn't been about me, or about Jimmy," Simmons told an ecstatic crowd from the Grace Road balcony. "It is about being a team." Like most of his colleagues, Simmons was dazed as much by the celebrations of the previous night as the impact of improbable success, but this was still a succinct summary of Leicestershire's methods.

To a degree, they are clones of the previous champions, Warwickshire. They, too, were short on big names and obvious title potential but, for both sides, success came through meticulous preparation and a maximising of every asset of technique or temperament, creating a spirit that opponents could neither break nor adequately fathom.

Whitaker has encouraged his players to be open, uninhibited, even unafraid of looking daft. Their curious arm-locking huddle after each wicket started out in jest but took on symbolism and, on Saturday, with the title safe, the team indulged in an impromptu conga along the committee balcony.

One could hardly imagine Raymond Illingworth leading such a performance back in



The champagne flows on the Grace Road balcony after Leicestershire had secured victory in the county championship against Middlesex at the weekend

1975, when the championship pennant last flew in Leicester, but that suits the present team just fine. They do not wish to be compared with Illingworth's side, as has been the fate of every Leicestershire team for the past two decades: they want to be assessed and appreciated on their own merits.

These merits are considerable — more considerable, certainly, than any but Whitaker himself imagined when the season began. Despite being new to a job he had awaited with scarcely concealed impatience, Whitaker possessed a rare self-belief. He might have left the

county three years ago, when he had the opportunity to captain elsewhere, but his roots held his ambition in check, only to be fully unleashed when he succeeded Nigel Briers this spring.

"Since our pre-season tour to South Africa, I always felt we could win it if we steered clear of injuries," he said. Whitaker has spoken for months of allowing his players to express themselves and of finding "the extra ten or 20 per cent that most county players have in reserve". He has achieved it triumphantly and his leadership merits comparison with that of Dermot Reeve at Edgbaston.

Like Warwickshire last year, Leicestershire were beaten only once in their title-winning programme. They lost their sixth game, in mid-June, to the Surrey side that pursued them to the wire. Since then they have seldom looked like cracking, despite twice falling foul of poor weather. They won their last four games, three of them by an innings, and took the title by 27 points.

The most remarkable, most pertinent aspect of their success is that they used only 13 players in the championship. More than one county this year has used more than 20, which inevitably dissipates

team spirit. Leicestershire lived together as a tight unit, overseen by the avuncular figure of their manager, Jack Birkenshaw, a player in the 1975 title side yet infinitely more fulfilled by his latest feat.

"It is the highlight of my career," Birkenshaw said yesterday. "Even better than playing Test cricket for England. We have a selfless bunch of players. There is no one who is looking to grab the glory for himself. James has been a big influence as captain — he is so very positive — and Simmons has had a wonderful year."

Simmons's exclusion from the West Indies team since before the World Cup grates

visibly. "But it's not my form that is keeping me out, it's a personal vendetta against me by someone on the selection committee," he said.

He will be doing his best to overcome that barrier this winter, though he has already been omitted from the party to tour Australia. He does not expect to be asked to sign a contract by the West Indies Cricket Board and he plans to be back at Grace Road next summer "for another party".

It may not rival the one that consumed Grace Road this weekend. From the moment when Surrey conceded the title by forfeiting an innings at the Oval, and teatime suddenly

became champagne time, the drinks flowed. There were some necessary dark glasses, some unsteady walks yesterday morning, but nobody cared and Middlesex were not in the mood to embarrass the hung-over.

Millns took four for 21 to wrap up victory inside 50 minutes and provoke yet more triumphalism from the balcony. On Tuesday, the team will parade the trophy for a civic reception. On Friday, they stage a club dinner and the "sold out" signs are up. Suddenly, incongruously, Leicestershire are a boom club and county cricket is the better for it.

Openers set up Glamorgan win

BY JACK BAILEY

CHELMSFORD (final day of four): Glamorgan (24pts) beat Essex (6) by seven wickets

HUGH MORRIS and Stephen James are one of the more prolific pairs in county cricket. Yesterday, they rounded off another good season with a partnership of 199, which not only surpassed the previous highest opening partnership for Glamorgan against Essex, but proved expensive for their opponents.

Failure to squeeze a victory out of this match left Essex in fifth place; a win would have seen them runners-up to Leicestershire. The difference amounts to £21,000.

The comparative ease with which Glamorgan achieved the task of scoring 284 runs from 45 overs both beggared belief and underlined that the main obstacle in Essex's quest for high honours has been an attack which has lacked a cutting edge — certainly on pitches as good as that prepared by Stuart Kerrison for this match. As Morris moved confidently past his sixth century of the season, the bowling looked threadbare and cureworn.

It could have been a different tale if Gooch — yes, he is fallible — had been able to



Morris: sixth century

fasten on to a straightforward catch at slip (if there is such a thing) offered from the second ball of the innings by James. For it was James, no less than Morris whose batting caused demoralisation in the Essex ranks.

After matching Morris run for run in the race which saw Glamorgan's journey towards the first 100 runs completed inside 27 overs, James then played second fiddle. Morris was on song and there was no stopping him.

When Law, Essex's most successful bowler, finally beat an attempt by Morris to hit him out of the ground, the chunky Welshman had batted for 3½ hours for his 149, had hit 24 fours and had made his first century against Essex. He now needs only one against Surrey to complete a full set against the counties.

Gooch's catching was again tried and found wanting when he put down Hemp at mid-off. But by then the game was all but over as Hemp, forcefully, and Cottey, carefully, saw Glamorgan home and into tenth place in this year's championship with nine balls to spare.

The continuation of the Essex innings, based on the firm foundation of being 157 ahead with seven wickets in hand, went more or less according to the overall plan. Individually, though, expectations that the bulk of the scoring would be done by Gooch and Law were soon dashed.

Only 15 had been added when Law became the second of Cottey's four wickets, holding out into the sure hands of Hemp at cover. It was a risky stroke, but Essex needed quickly. When Gooch fell, caught at mid-on, only 20 runs had been added and Cottey, with Gooch, Hussain and Law now in his locker, was treading on air.

His day was somewhat spoilt when he failed to catch Rollins at mid-wicket when the Essex wicketkeeper had made 24. Rollins went on to score 46 from 51 balls, ensuring, with the assistance of Ilott and Irani that Essex were in a position to declare at lunch and give themselves a fighting chance of victory as Glamorgan chased the runs. But Morris and James made a nonsense of their aspirations.

Smith's end-of-term spirit goes missing

BY PAT GIBSON

SOUTHAMPTON (final day of four): Hampshire (9pts) drew with Nottinghamshire (8)

IT WAS not meant to be a symbolic gesture but it was as good a way of summing up an undistinguished season for two counties who just did not have it in them to sign off with a bit of style.

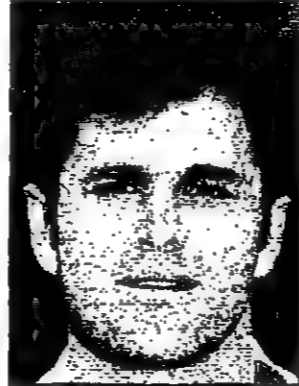
Chris Cairns, Nottinghamshire's New Zealand all-rounder, who had just been given out caught behind, stormed off the field, pausing only to throw his bat into a convenient rubbish bin. Whether he was angry with himself, with the umpire, or simply with the way the game was being played, it hardly seemed to matter.

There did seem to be a chance of a decent finish when Hampshire began 161 ahead with nine wickets in hand, but it was soon obvious that they had no intention of giving the faithful few something to remember during the months of hibernation. Johnson, the Nottinghamshire captain, did try to chivy them along by bowling himself, Archer, Downman and even the wicket-keeper, Noon, all to no avail.

Johnson actually had the satisfaction of taking a wicket — only his sixth in 15 seasons — when he held a return catch to dismiss White for a pinstaking 53, and Archer picked up three with "very medium pace", but their smiles disappeared when Smith, Hampshire's acting captain, allowed the innings to continue until Nottinghamshire needed to

score 304 off a minimum of 52 overs.

Smith's explanation for a decision which seemed to take no account of the fact that neither side had anything to lose or that there were spectators to be entertained was that,



Cairns: angry

with Bovill, Botham and Udal injured, he was down to only two fit bowlers. It was a surprise, therefore, when one of the supposed casualties, Udal, opened the attack and proceeded to bowl unchanged throughout the innings without any sign of injury.

Not surprisingly, Nottinghamshire, who had declared 122 behind in the hope of making a game of it, were unimpressed. They may have played some poor cricket in the county championship this season but they were enterprising enough to finish joint top of the AXA Equity & Law League, losing the title to Surrey only on an inferior scoring rate, and they would have been prepared to chase their second win of the season.

Now, however, they made their intentions plain from the outset. With Robinson nursing a rib injury, they sent in Afzal to open with Downman, and they made no attempt to force the pace against the spin of Udal and Maru.

There was some incentive for the bowlers in that Maru needed only three more wickets to become the eighteenth Hampshire bowler to take 500 in first-class cricket while Udal could have done with a match-winning performance to give him some consolation at the end of a moderate season.

They were to be disappointed. Maru had to settle for two wickets and Udal three as only Archer, adding to his first-innings century with 63 off 100 balls, including two sixes and eight fours, relieved the gloom of a cold and cheerless day. The shivering spectators deserved better.

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Openers graft their way into record book

BY SIMON WILDE

NORTHAMPTON (final day of four): Northamptonshire (6pts) drew with Yorkshire (11)

WHEN the long, cold winter nights make most memories of the summer grow dim, Mal Loye and Richard Montgomerie, the Northamptonshire opening batsmen, will have no trouble recalling just how they last wielded a bat in anger. They spent much of yesterday — the final day of the 1996 season — making their side safe from defeat and, in the process, created a sizeable piece of history as they shared the highest opening partnership in Northamptonshire's 91-year existence as a first-class county.

Neither Loye, who scored a maiden double-century, nor Montgomerie, who contributed 127 towards their stand of 372 in six hours, will be touring with the England sides this winter, although quite why, in Loye's case, is a moot point.

He was chosen for an England A tour three years ago at the age of 21, and that he has not progressed significantly since then perhaps says more about the club than the player. In a strong batting side, it is often easier to leave out the character who complains the least, and even this season, in which Loye has scored 1,000

runs for the first time, he has been dropped twice.

Loye and Montgomerie began work at 2.40pm on Saturday, when Yorkshire, for whom victory would have given them equal fourth place, enforced the follow-on 256 runs ahead. The pair resumed yesterday on 157 and still had plenty to do to save the game, but, once they had negotiated a brief burst of speed from Gough, their bats were rarely beaten again on what was a lifeless pitch.

The first-wicket record, previously held by Oldfield and Broderick, who put on 301 against Scotland in 1953, fell at 1.53pm, when Loye swept Stemp to the boundary to also take his own score to 201.

Shortly after, Gough returned with the intention of taking the new ball, but, before he did so, Montgomerie tried to swat the ball through mid-wicket for the umpteenth time and mis-cued into the hands of Silverwood. Two balls later, and with the new ball now in his hand, Gough had Loye held at second slip.

With no prospect of obtaining a positive result, Northamptonshire batted on in relaxed mood, Bailey and Walton scoring runs much as they liked in the final session before an offer of some distinctly reasonable light was accepted at 4.40pm.

Walsh wins reward for durability

ALTHOUGH Kent's strong bid for the county championship tide finished on a note of anti-climax at Bristol on Saturday, when they were crushed by ten wickets by Gloucestershire, they certainly took the palm for the most improved side of the season, rising from eighteenth to fourth place in the table (Geoffrey Wheeler writes).

As in the first innings, Kent's batsmen were unable to cope with the wonderfully durable Courtney Walsh, who finished as the season's leading wicket-taker despite missing two matches, including the one against Durham, who inherited the wooden spoon from Kent.

There seemed an outside chance that Durham might win their first match of the season on Saturday when a stout second-innings recovery, led by Hutton and Cox, enabled them to leave Derbyshire 219 to win. But Derbyshire needed only 46 overs to knock off the runs for a win which secured their second place in the table, 27 points behind Leicestershire.

At Hove, where Somerset succumbed to some persistent fast bowling from Andrew Coddick, who confirmed his fitness for winter tour duty with match figures of ten for 180 from 46 overs.

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Warwickshire, then, finished the season in eighth

place and with £6,000, which was rather less booty than they would have expected when they were annihilating Sussex in their first championship match of the season. How swiftly everything changes.

Dermot Reeve, captain and century-maker on that occasion, before being forced into early retirement by injury, has some critical things to say about the county in his forthcoming autobiography. He is a front-runner for the position of coach at Somerset.

Warwickshire have no post for him and nor, now, are they likely to be inclined to try to find one. One player they are interested in taking on, more so, apparently, than Nick Speak of Lancashire, is David Hemp, the 25-year-old Glamorgan batsman who has yet to sign a new contract. He is good enough to have been on an England A tour.

It is hard to envisage Warwickshire not challenging for the championship next season, when Allan Donald returns. For Lancashire, who have to placate their members at a special forum next week, a crystal ball is required. They did not bowl badly yesterday. Yet the difference Wasim Akram, the captain of Pakistan, makes is all too apparent: fourth last year, fourth from bottom this, fourth from bottom this. At least he will be back next summer.

Bicknell's defiance tempers defeat for Surrey

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

THE OVAL (final day of four): Worcestershire (20pts) beat Surrey (4) by 124 runs

WHEN they were 108 for seven, chasing 424 for victory, Surrey were in danger of finishing a good season with an embarrassing defeat. They lost shortly after tea but there was nothing to be ashamed about. A fine undefeated hundred by Darren Bicknell and some rollicking hitting by Julian ensured that, although they lowered the flag, their heads remained high.

It was a grand day for Bicknell, whose last hundred at the Oval was as long ago as August 1993. It must be an odd feeling to open the batting on a Test ground, particularly one that befriends batsmen, and find yourself drying up, as Bicknell has done here. He had made 129 when Surrey's last wicket fell on 299.

He became the first Surrey batsman to carry his bat in county cricket since 1991, when he made an unbeaten 145 against Essex at Chelmsford. The last Surrey batsman to carry his bat in first-class cricket was Alec Stewart, opening for England against Pakistan at Lord's in 1992.

So Surrey finish third in the championship, and collect £15,000 for their pains. This was an important season for them, and they have finished it in credit.

Stewart seemed content as he reflected on a year that brought a trophy — the AXA Equity & Law League — to the club for the first time in 14 years, and is confident that Surrey can maintain their progress in the years to come. It has been a good year for him, too. He lost his Test place in June, regained it through an injury to Nick Knight, and has retained it since.

"It would have been nice to

have won another trophy," he said, "but it has been a fair season. We are a good side and have played some good cricket. In the past, players have left it to others to come up with the goods. This year we have matured."

On the batting side, Stewart can be pleased with the progress of Adam Holloake, who captains the England A team in Australia this winter, and Butcher, who will accompany him. "We have two top-class players there," he said.

The bowling has been strengthened by Julian and Lewis, who can also bowl and field well. Martin Bicknell's ability to stay clear of injury has helped them and, said Stewart, "underlined what a good bowler he could have been". Indeed, and how sad those words sound.

Whether Julian returns as the overseas professional next year lies in the hands of the Australia selectors. Stewart said he was "high on the list" of candidates after a summer of considerable personal achievement but, with Australia playing a Test series against West Indies and South Africa before coming to England, they will be stretched this winter as never before, and will need all hands on deck.

Julian has demonstrated his batting ability on several important occasions this season. Yesterday, after the top order collapsed in the morning session, he helped Bicknell to add 141 in 29 overs for the eighth wicket, a Surrey record against Worcestershire. He struck the ball cleanly enough to make 80 from 86 balls, with 15 fours and a six until, looking for six more, he drove Solanki to long-on, where Spirling held a catch on the run.

Solanki, bowling what Harry Pilling used to call "righted filth", took the final two wickets as Ben Hollis and Benjamin sought big hits towards the shorter mid-wicket boundary. Bicknell remained defiant to the end and left the field a happy man. There were handshakes all round on a crisp afternoon as cricket finally surrendered to autumn.

Warwickshire have no post for him and nor, now, are they likely to be inclined to try to find one. One player they are interested in taking on, more so, apparently, than Nick Speak of Lancashire, is David Hemp, the 25-year-old Glamorgan batsman who has yet to sign a new contract. He is good enough to have been on an England A tour.

It is hard to envisage Warwickshire not challenging for the championship next season, when Allan Donald returns. For Lancashire, who have to placate their members at a special forum next week, a crystal ball is required. They did not bowl badly yesterday. Yet the difference Wasim Akram, the captain of Pakistan, makes is all too apparent: fourth last year, fourth from bottom this, fourth from bottom this. At least he will be back next summer.

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SAILING: CONCERT CREW IN PERFECT HARMONY FOR TESTS AHEAD IN BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE

Duncan steers path to great adventure

Edward Gorman on
a crew's countdown
to the start of their
round the world race

Lucy Duncan is at the wheel of *Concert*, a 67-foot BT Global Challenge cutter that will take her and 13 other paying volunteers around the world the hard way — against the prevailing winds and currents. It is the eastern Solent on a lovely breezy day for sailing.

Duncan is concentrating hard on keeping the boat on course, barely taking her eye off the bow to answer the questions and jokes coming at her from left and right. "Try to keep her to the right of the Isle of Wight," Chris Tibbs, who will be her skipper for the marathon race, advises.

The bit of the island Tibbs is referring to is Egypt Point away to our left. *Concert* is under full main and yankee and plugging along sweetly at 5½ knots on a close reach in 15-16 knots of wind. In front of Duncan the champagne corks are flying as the last corporate-hospitality guests on the boat before the start of the race next Sunday, down their first drinks of the morning.



Duncan gets the benefit of the vast experience of Tibbs, the skipper of *Concert*, as she learns more about the art of steering

BT

Global Challenge

THE TIMES

"I'm still learning so much really," Duncan said, a little self-consciously. "The actual steering is easy but I haven't really done it in heavy winds. It feels nice — I do like steering." She takes another look at the trees on the Point as the big wheel in her hands twitches this way and that. "It always seems to take a while to get into the groove each time you take over," she said.

Tibbs, who has the easy-going confidence of a man who has sailed in two Whitbread Round the World Races and has since done his time in boat deliveries and professional skippering, chimes in with another bit of

morale-boosting, mickety-taking of his most inexperienced crew member. He claims to have already begun bribing Duncan with "a fortune spent on fine wines and perfume" to ensure that her reports back to *The Times* during the race present him in a favourable light.

"Lucy does quite well with steering," he said. "We've frightened her so much, she concentrates like mad. If we say it's got to be 32 degrees off the apparent wind, she sticks to 32 degrees as if her life depended on it."

Nothing better illustrates the spirit of Chay Blyth's race. Here is a woman of 35 who, until she was belatedly selected for the race in December last year, had done virtually no sailing at all. Yet, just nine

months later, she is preparing to leave her job as a midwife at High Wycombe General Hospital and take part in a gruelling test of stamina that will take her through the Southern Ocean and through experiences most of us could only dream of.

Her involvement is not totally out of character, however. Duncan is fit — she ran this year's London Marathon in 4½ hours and is a keen netball player. But she also knows she has a long way to go to catch up with many of her crew mates, whose sailing has improved dramatically over two years of training in Blyth's school.

Down below over lunch, prepared by Mathew Fletcher and Brian Beaumont, the bowmen on *Concert*, she acknowl-

edges her greatest fear. "It's just that I'll let everyone down really — that's the one big thing — because I am the least experienced of everybody," she said. But she is learning fast and, according to Tibbs, she easily makes up what she does not yet know in hard work and enthusiasm.

Initially, her chores on the boat will include servicing winches, maintaining the two "heads" (lavatories) and doing her share of work in the galley. But she will also be fully involved in deck work and, like everyone else on board, will be expected to take the wheel from time to time. In between all of this she will also have to find time for her reports for *The Times*.

Concert, named after the Virginia-based American subsidiary of BT, appears to be a happy ship in a fleet where there are already rumours of discontented crews and one or two unpopular skippers. Tibbs wants to win, but he has put most of his effort, so far, into building his crew into a cohesive team.

"There will be no easy boats this time," he said. "I feel very much as a skipper that I can lose the race by making bad navigational or routing decisions, but it's the crew who have to go out and win it."

Duncan is realistic when it comes to talk of winning. At present she has her hands full just doing what she is told and is quite open in admitting that there is more to her life — even on a BT Global Challenge yacht — than crossing the finishing line first.

"I want to win as much as anyone else," she said, "but it's not the main object as far as I am concerned. I hope that we all enjoy it. We have a pretty good crew as far as that goes — just in terms of getting on — and examples from some of the other boats shows that that is not always true."

Tibbs, who brought the boat home in seventh place in the qualifying sail to the Fastnet Rock and back, seems to have got the crew-skipper relationship and the all-important morale aspect just about right.

"One of the things you can hear all the time on this boat is an incredible amount of laughter," he said. "It's a really happy boat and so far, we've had no inter-personnel conflicts or anything."

Big game gives rivals a run for their money

Where, in the sporting programme, this weekend, will you be able to find *Leopards*, *Sharks*, *Bears*, *Tigers* and *Eagles*? You should also be looking for *Towers*, *Giants*, *Royals*, *Riders*, *Bulls*, *Jets*, *Storm* and, rather boringly, *Crystal Palace*. Yes, it is the Budweiser League of basketball, one of the fastest-growing sports in the United Kingdom.

The emergence of basketball from the sport you used to play in the school gym when it was too wet for football, to a leading spectator event, has occurred only in the past couple of years. It has overtaken ice hockey as the up-and-coming sport on the block. The growth led to some of the leading teams signing significant sponsorship deals, such as London *Leopards* tying up with *Playboy* TV.

And some quite heavy-hitting media and sports companies are getting involved, such as Newcastle United, *Chrysalis*, whose head, Chris Wright, also owns *Queens Park Rangers* and *Wasp*, and *Allied Entertainment*, which is part-owned by the rock promoter, *Harvey Goldsmith*. There has been a lot of television interest and the signing of players from the United States. This year *Birmingham Bulls* are boasting a new signing called *Fabulous Flournoy* and the *Sheffield Sharks* are not to be outdone with their new point guard, "Neon" *Dion Haynes*.

Now, average teams such as *Manchester Giants* and *Newcastle Eagles* are commanding crowds of upwards of 3,000 or 4,000 at home games. The bigger teams, such as *London Towers* or *Sheffield Sharks*, are already playing in venues such as *Wembley Arena* or the 9,000-seat *Sheffield Arena*.

A live televised game is being shown on *BSkyB*, 40 per cent owned by *News International*, owner of *The Times*, on Sundays, just after the Premiership football. And British teams are starting to meet some of their European counterparts on even terms.

In the European Championships' League last year the *Sharks* came up against *Real*



Madrid in an early round and came close to upsetting the Spanish champions. This year the *Budweiser* champions, *London Towers*, opted for an easier run in the *Cup Winners' Cup* and the *Sharks* took a Euro-sceptic attitude.

The problem is that, in southern European countries, basketball is essentially the major sport. In Athens, *Panathinaikos*'s giant-killing football team often command a lower home gate than their sister basketball team. It will be a cold day in hell before that happens in Newcastle.

The wages the big European teams can pay dwarf what is on offer in the United Kingdom. The *Budweiser* League has a salary cap of £137,500 a year, which is about five minutes' work for *Shaquille O'Neal*. In Greece, an average squad player could earn £100,000 a year, twice what a similar player would get in the UK and he would be a first-choice team member in Britain. Players who have left the *National Basketball Association* championship can often get £2 million a year in Greece, Italy or Spain.

Yet the sport is building fast. It is being marketed heavily, as will be shown shortly when the *London Leopards* unveil their new publicity gimmick, a team made up of *Playboy* centrefolds. This year will be a crucial one for the *Budweiser* League, seeing whether it can make that breakthrough into the public imagination.

Live action will help. But the experience I had in a Florida bar during the football World Cup, when the barman turned off a game between Sweden and Romania so that we could see a *Houston Rockets* training session, is a long way off.

JASON NISSÉ

SPORTS LETTERS

Success hampers Arsenal

From Mr Piers Morris

Sir, These are difficult times at Arsenal Football Club. Through assumptions and arrogance the directors and shareholders of the club would appear, over a lengthy period, to have let down themselves, the supporters and public, the staff and players, British football, and above all the great name of Arsenal itself.

The problem lies in the mix of circumstances that afflict many football clubs. First, the owners of the club are largely also the directors of the club. This means that it is remarkably easy for management controls to break down the checks and balances required in decision-making. Second, if you add to this the arrogance of many people in football ownership and management, which often leads to wrong assumptions about the way people think or react, you have created a formula for disaster. Arsenal's problems have

been caused by success, but just because you become successful does not mean you can afford to overlook the rigorous checks required daily in taking decisions.

George Graham's talents were first allowed to slip away, followed by Stewart Houston. In addition, there was the farcical situation where the directors were forced to admit that Bruce Rioch's replacement as manager was not in place. We must all now wait and see how the French replacement, Arsène Wenger, will fare with a problematic board of directors and a public not fully appreciative yet of the merits of Gallic leadership at this juncture.

Difficult times now, but tougher times ahead. I wish Arsenal well. Yours sincerely, PIERS MORRIS, 50 Richmond Park Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey.

Giggs has proved his worth

From Mr Henry Self

Sir, I must reply to Michael Henderson (report, September 16) who questioned Ryan Giggs's progress and worth to Manchester United. Henderson bemoans the fact that Giggs, on a salary of £1 million per year, appears to possess little, if any, footballing prowess.

Henderson seems oblivious to Giggs's contribution, consistently to the highest level, to United's achievements last season; he has even forgotten Giggs's performance for Wales against San Marino a fortnight earlier. It has been well documented that Giggs had suffered a major personal loss before the Juventus game — a possible explanation for a loss of form.

Yours sincerely, HENRY SELF, 51 Forsyth House, Tachbrook Street, SW1. From Mr Milo Edwards Sir, Michael Henderson writes: "The triumphalism at

Old Trafford [after Manchester United's 4-1 win over Nottingham Forest] ... betokens ignorance, or immaturity." This is breathtaking cheek.

The supporters I was amongst, and have met since, are under no illusions about the implications for United's status in Europe of a sizeable win against Forest; but if Henderson expects any football fans anywhere to watch a 4-1 victory without crowing over their opponents, he might be better off reporting on some more gentlemanly sport.

As for his assessment of Giggs, other experts take a different view and Henderson's opinions are worth arguing about. But to write that he "has a brain full of rocks" is the kind of intemperate insult I would expect to find in the tabloids.

Yours sincerely, MILO EDWARDS, 15 Cranbourne Road, Chorlton, Manchester.

Blot on Lord's

From Mr Charles W. Steggell

Sir, The Rev R. A. Mason (Sports Letters, September 14) highlighted a matter which will cause concern to many, the threat to the ambience of Lord's cricket ground from the proposed media centre. Such an edifice is patently inappropriate at so sensitive a point.

Is it conceivable that planning permission could be obtained for such an unsuitable development? Similar lack of sensitivity to environmental considerations and traditions resulted in our historic Hastings Central Cricket Ground — which dated back to 1864 and had hosted many famous players such as W. G. Grace, G. L. Jessop and Denis Compton — being wiped off the map in the name of "progress".

The turf which W. G. once described as "the best and truest in the country" has now been dug up and the site covered with a shopping centre. The previous unique quality of our town centre has been lost forever. Local — and

national — protests were to no avail. On this wider issue it is to be hoped that pressure from a majority of MCC members and cricket well-wishers throughout the world will ensure that Lord's is not disgraced by a gratuitous monstrosity.

Yours faithfully, CHARLES W. STEGGELL, 76 Norman Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex.

Stopping for tea

From Mr M. Diddams

Sir, Dr Valerie Goldberg (Sports Letters, September 16) should consider herself lucky to reach the tea interval only 30 minutes late at a Britannia Assurance county championship cricket match.

At Canterbury recently, due to various delays and interruptions in the first session, the "32 overs remaining" mark was not reached until 4.35, some 55 minutes later than scheduled.

The apparently inflexible rule, that adjustments to play-

Age not the key

From Mr Christopher Clift

Sir, Rob Hughes (Weekend View, September 7) discussed experience versus youth. I used to belong to a rugby referees' society in the North and was assured by a member of the hierarchy that, having passed 40, I should not expect to progress up the ladder.

I fully endorse Hughes's contention that it is the fitness

ing times and overs remaining can only be made by extending the second session, is ridiculous, as it distorts the lengths of the three sessions. The middle session is invariably much longer than the other two and, of all the days I have attended this year, there has not been one where tea was taken when due.

This rule should be altered so that a certain number of overs have to be bowled before lunch can be taken. This will make no difference to the time play ends for the day, but at least it would make the three sessions roughly equal.

Yours etc., M. DIDDAMS, 21 Vincent Road, Sittingbourne, Kent.

of the individual to perform which is important, not his age. How old was Lester Piggott when he rode his last race and what about the race and fitness of Sir Stanley Matthews in his last matches? There are now many, sophisticated ways in which players and match officials can prove their fitness and it is time that the governing bodies realised that levels of fitness are frequently maintained well beyond what used to be considered the "sell-by date".

Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER CLIFT, 449 Reddings Lane, Birmingham 11.

Drink wisely

From Mr Bruce Cherry

Sir, The Sunday papers were full of wise comment on the sad case of Tony Adams and his drinking problem. Then I turned to the results: FA Carling Premiership, *Bell's* Scottish League, *Courage* Rugby Union Clubs Championship. Were our sportsmen healthier when they played for the Milk or Coca-Cola cups?

Yours faithfully, BRUCE CHERRY, 15a Westfield Road, W13.

This Thursday
is the first day
of the rest
of your life.

From Thursday 26th September, *The Times* introduces an exciting new Appointments Section in three parts. It includes First Executive, especially for graduates and young professionals in the early stages of their careers. There's also Management Plus, covering positions for middle management, and Premier Appointments for senior vacancies.

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CHANGING TIMES

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

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RACING: LAMBOURN TRAINER UNVEILS POTENTIAL CHAMPIONS AT HER OPEN DAY

Pitman puts faith in youth policy

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

JENNY PITMAN yesterday ushered in a new era by unveiling her potential Cheltenham and Aintree champions for the millennium — and thereby laid the ghosts which recently have threatened to undermine the "Queen of Lambourn".

It is three years since Bill and Shirley Robins inflicted a devastating body blow by removing some of the best horses in Mrs Pitman's care — notably Mighty Mogul — and so reduced the quality and quantity of jumpers at Weathercock House.

"I said at the time it would take between two and four years to rebuild our team and I think we are now back to where we were," she said at her open day.

Of the 80 horses on show, half have had only one run in a bumper race or have never seen a racecourse. But she believes some have the raw talent which, come the next century, will enable them to match the achievements of stars of the 1990s.

Applauding, Garrison Savannah, who captured the 1991 Cheltenham Gold Cup, and Royal Athlete, last year's Grand National winner, complemented the parade to underline the rewards which can flow from Mrs Pitman's patient strategy of giving horses time to develop their full potential.

"It does not matter how rich you are. These horses have

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ETTERBY PARK (2.30 Musselburgh)
Next best: Castleread Lad (4.15 Leicester)

Indefence, the Supreme Novice Hurdle victor, may be a realistic contender for the Champion Hurdle, one of the few championship races to elude Mrs Pitman.

However, several other horses received favourable mention. They include: **Arithmetic** A "bit of a monkey" who has tremendous potential and will probably go chasing this season after hurdle successes at Newbury and Leicester last term.

Cantor Frater A reformed character who won twice last

year and has benefited from a spell of show jumping. "He has enormous scope and may still be ahead of the handicapper".

Cherrymore Has not seen a racecourse but worked last year as well as any of Mrs Pitman's bumper horses. A potentially exciting novice hurdler.

Chilled Has done particularly well over the summer after finishing second in a decent Lingfield bumper. He will probably need 2½ miles over hurdles.

Jet Boys Suffered from sore shins last year but has improved physically during the summer and is expected to make up for lost time this season.

Lord Regal High cruising speed and will be seen to best effect over 2½ miles.

Princiful Only ran once last season but won by 12 lengths at Worcester. He has schooled particularly well and could be a Cheltenham horse.

Silver Thyme Known as the pocket rocket at home, won his only start in a bumper at Newton Abbot last year and is held in high regard.

Tennessee Twist A half-brother to Royal Athlete and shows all the courage of the Grand National winner. He won two of his four starts last season and will go novice chasing this term.



Pitman and her son, Mark, show off their stable talent at yesterday's open day

Need to minimise the risk factor for going reports

Players of Monopoly will recognise the angst when they are invited to take a "Chance". They may prefer to abstain, for they may be told: Go directly to Jail. Do not pass Go. Do not collect £200.

For years, players of horses have involuntarily been drawing the "Chance" card. And they have been told: Go directly to Purgatory. Do not pass your Bookmaker. Do not entertain Hope.

Betting has no purpose without hope. Hope is when you have considered a race, taken note of the ponderables and arrived at your selection. The rest you must leave to "chance", but the "chance" is only taken when the ponderables are in your favour.

You must be happy with the trainer, the jockey, the draw, the distance of the race, the type of race, the track's characteristics and the form of your horse. Above all, the ground must be right. If you back a horse on unsuitable ground you are condemning yourself: Go directly to Jail.

Over the last decade, huge advances have been made in the data available to punters. The depth of information is such that the element of chance has been minimised. In tandem with this, the Jockey Club has been researching a mechanism for producing accurate going reports. It is three years since the project's birth and the denouement arrived last week. It has come to nothing. We are back where we started: Go directly to Jail.



Julian Muscat

Punters have long recognised the absurdity of ground reports issued by clerks of the course. Some clerks inhabit a world where the ground always revolves around the word "good". After a deluge of Biblical proportions, it is "good racing ground" after a drought. It is "good fast ground". In winter, when they are told it is "good jumping ground".

At Newbury in May, Lord Carnarvon, the racecourse chairman, attributed the defeat of his filly, Arethusa, to the softened ground. Yet the official going was described as "good to firm". It would be comical were it not for the fact that punters sit a small fortune through inaccurate going reports.

Queen joins Carson's well-wishers

A GET-WELL message from the Queen has been sent to Willie Carson, the jockey recovering in hospital from a damaged liver. Her "best wishes" were delivered in a telephone message from Sir Robert Fellowes, her private secretary, to staff at Basingstoke's North Hampshire Hospital.

Carson, 53, was yesterday "out of immediate danger" but remains in intensive care after receiving a kick in the stomach from a horse he was about to mount at Newbury on Friday.

Flowers, cards and messages of support have flooded in from well-wishers, including one from the Queen, for whom Carson has ridden many winners, notably Dunfermline in the 1977 Oaks and St Leger.

Carson's consultant, Mr Myrddin Rees, yesterday had not ruled out the possibility of surgery later to remove part of the jockey's liver.

So far, visits have been limited to family and close friends but Carson would move to a general ward today. He will remain in hospital for two weeks but he is expected to make a full recovery and be fit to return to riding within three months. However, he will almost certainly spend part of the winter break contemplating his future.

Medical briefing, page 6

Oscar Schindler has Melbourne on list

BY OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS a case of out with the old and in with the new at Saturday's Jefferson Smurfit Memorial Irish St Leger at the Curragh. The 1993 and 94 Irish St Leger winners, Vintage Crop, made his last racecourse appearance at the head of the race parade and Oscar Schindler took over the old horse's mantle when routing the opposition in Ireland's final classic of the season.

Vintage Crop will spend his retirement as a tourist attraction at the Irish National Stud but, in contrast, Oscar Schindler may only now be reaching his peak. "He is such a big horse, 17 hands, that I think he is still getting better as he grows into his frame," Kevin Prendergast, his trainer, said.

Michael Stoute was pleased with Schindler's third place. "It got a little tight with Poseidonas but he ran on again and I was pleased with that," the Newmarket trainer said.

Aidan O'Brien gained his first group one Flat victory when Desert King won the Aga Khan's Studs National Stakes under Walter Swinburn. The Geoff Lewis-trained Referendum was best of the four British juveniles, leading for most of the seven-furlong trip until headed by Desert King in the last strides.

The Jockey Stephen Crane, born in the Isle of Man, was landing his first Irish group one success and never had a moment's worry once Oscar Schindler took over the outside of the favourite, Key Change, in the straight.

The Yorkshire Oaks winner held on for second, ahead of the British pair, Sacramento and Poseidonas, who engaged in their own battle for much of the race.

The immediate post-race plan was to aim Oscar Schindler at the Prix de l'Arc Triomphe, but the Leger could yet again become a staging post to the Melbourne Cup, a route well won by Vintage Crop in the last three years.

Prendergast considers Oscar Schindler to be well hand-

CURRAGH DETAILS

Going: good to firm (good on straight course)
Group 1: £25,000 (1m 6f)
Group 2: £12,500 (1m 6f)

1. OSCAR SCHINDLER (S. Crane, 4-11; 2. Key Change, 11-1; 3. Sacramento, 11-1; 4. Poseidonas, 11-1; 5. Desert King, 11-1; 6. Referendum, 11-1; 7. Vintage Crop, 11-1; 8. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 9. G. G. G. 11-1; 10. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 11. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 12. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 13. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 14. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 15. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 16. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 17. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 18. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 19. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 20. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 21. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 22. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 23. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 24. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 25. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 26. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 27. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 28. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 29. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 30. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 31. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 32. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 33. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 34. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 35. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 36. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 37. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 38. Blushing Palace, 11-1; 39. 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Jennai Cox braves Dartmoor for a two-day SAS-style trial for the women's polar relay team

Up the pole or round the bend?



Look north: the trial stretched the psychological and physical limits of all 45 women

Lying in a frost-covered sleeping bag on Dartmoor trying to get some sleep, two large hands were thrust over my ears. A series of booms was followed by the sounds of a siren. Smoking flares filled the night air. "There are three casualties out there on the moors," a voice shouted, "get up, find them and bring them back here. Now." All the dread of taking part in the second women's North Pole relay team trial was confirmed.

A 26-mile hike in wind, rain and fog across the moors last January had brought me to the brink of exhaustion. This two-day, SAS-style expedition was to push all 45 participants to the end of their psychological and physical, tethers.

Watches were confiscated and, instead of the cosy first night many expected under the roof of the Tavistock-based Adventure Centre, which helped to orchestrate the weekend, we were split into teams and with our rucksacks herded into Land Rovers to be driven on to the moors.

There, each of the five teams was assigned extra luggage: the carrying of a five-metre log, three lifejackets, ten metres of rope and eight helmets had to be shared on top of a 30lb rucksack. With guides to intervene only when necessary we were told to find our way by torchlight to Foggintor Quarry. It was 9pm.

After an hour's walk against a biting wind we came to a rocky cliff-face. As our group was short of helmets two would have to climb twice, bringing back spares on their descent. I volunteered to stay behind, and huddled with another team member behind a boulder where we chatted to keep our thoughts from the cold. There is no hiding from Dartmoor winds.

Under six layers of clothing and with the weight on my back I was perspiring when I reached the hill top. No time to draw breath: this part of the moors came to an end at another cliff, with a smooth, flat drop. One by one we were strapped into harnesses and helped to abseil down. Some were visibly terrified, but nobody with a hope of going to the North Pole shrinks from a challenge on the first night.

By about 2am we were told to get some sleep. Each team had to bid for the scant equipment available with which to make bedding. My team quickly opted for two tarpaulins (groundsheets).

TRAVEL TIPS

COURSES through adventure centres can supply the following necessary items: walking boots; warm trousers; fleeces; waterproofs; rucksack; sleeping bag and ground mat; first-aid kit; map and magnetic compass; whistle; torch; penknife; survival bag; cooker and fuel; water bottle; matches; emergency food rations. Equipment and clothing can be bought from the following outlets which all have mail order: Berghaus 0191-415 0200; Mountain Equipment 0161-366 5022; Taunton Leisure 0171-924 3838.

SPORT FOR ALL

Getting as much rest as possible was a priority as details of the expedition were kept secret. While some giggled well into the night, my team's judgment proved correct.

I had woken from cold when the group was roused at about 4.30am to start walking again, and the feeling in my feet had just about returned when we reached Crazy Well Pool by late morning. "Now," one of the team leaders said, "you have got to swim across this lake with your rucksacks. Think about how you are going to do this."

Physical durability was only part of the selection process. Our mental and psychological capabilities were being tested, too. How would teams pull together, individuals react to each other, and could we agree on a way of crossing the lake and keep our belongings dry? Some built a raft for the rucksacks using the logs, while I reluctantly stripped to my underwear and like many others piled my rucksack into

a survival bag. When I reached the other side my feet were numb again.

With the additional weight of wet clothes, wet rope, and in some cases, wet sleeping bags, we had to reach a deserted farmhouse by 6pm. The route included an uphill run and climbing Sheeps Tor from where all women telephoned potential sponsors. The expedition, scheduled for next March, is still in search of a title sponsor whose logo or product will be carried as the baton to the Pole.

Taking turns to navigate, we slugged our way through streams in which the mud covered our knees. Blisters, where soil-soaked socks had rubbed against ankles and heels, was the main complaint on reaching Foxtor Mire.

Deceived by a beautiful evening, I left the majority who chose to sleep in the farmhouse and braved the outdoors. I awoke, shivering, within a couple of hours to find my sleeping bag covered in frost. Then came the sirens and simulated search.

By now the women had their team routines well rehearsed and the natural leaders were starting to emerge. One immediately took charge, assigning tasks, selecting who would stay and ordering the signals to be sent when bodies were found. About half an hour later the women returned, ready to crawl back into bed. "You will now do a mile-and-a-half run. It will be timed," we were told. A 31-

year-old mother of triplets with no running experience achieved the best time of just over ten minutes. I finished in the top half but behind another mother, aged 50. Those for whom the trial was a deeply personal quest pushed themselves on relentlessly.

As I slung my rucksack on for the last day, I could feel bruises on my shoulders and hips from the rubbing of the straps. By this time four women had pulled out. To test our navigation skills we were given grid references and each asked to guide the group, explaining our chosen route and estimating the distance and time needed to reach the destination.

I was subjected to spot checks: "Show me where we are on the map and tell me how you know." Having led the group hopelessly off course the previous day I made an extra effort to keep an eye on my map, until our leader feigned a fall and six of us had to carry him more than 500 metres on a hastily constructed stretcher. It took the better part of an hour.

Going at less than 3mph by late afternoon, tempers had started to fray. I was accused of not needing to stop to fill my water bottle, having drunk everyone else's. If I did not demonstrate the same degree of physical strength as the 20 who were selected, I at least completed the trial in good humour.

I was so tired by the end — having had only nine hours' sleep in 48 hours — I could feel the bags under my eyes. But I could not sleep. With exhaustion came a certain exhilaration. I began to understand what it means to have a burning ambition to reach the North Pole.

POLEWARDS

THE first all-women's relay team to the North Pole is being organised by the Polar Travel Company, which runs adventure trips to the Arctic and Antarctic (01364 631470). The Adventure Centre, Kelly College, runs tailor-made group courses on Dartmoor (01822 610817).



Jennai Cox: "Physical strength is only part of the process"



Up to the task: Lucy Roberts scales a cliff face



Learning the ropes: Liza Helps inches her way across a deep, dry ditch. To make the bridge, the parallel ropes were attached to two Land Rovers



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Playing back the suit the defence has led can often be effective. This hand is from a Dutch tournament in February.

Dealer East Love all IMPs

♠ A J 10 9 8	♥ 8 6	♦ K J 8 4 2	♣ Q 8 6 4
♠ J 8 7 4	♥ K 7 5	♦ Q 8 6 4	♣ Q 8 6 4
♠ Q 10	♥ Q 7 6 3	♦ K 10 9 8	♣ K 10 9 8
♠ 7 2	♥ K 10 9 8	♦ A 8	♣ A 7 3

W N E S
1S All Pass Double (1) Pass 2S 1H 3NT

Contract: Three No-trumps by South. Lead: Jack of spades

(1) Negative double, showing the other suits and at least six HCP. Declarer won the jack of spades lead and played the ace of diamonds followed by a diamond to the queen and king. After the jack of diamonds he now tried for his remaining chance, that the king of clubs was doubleton. When that did not materialise he was one down. In truth the straightforward chances are not good. The odds of five diamond tricks are approximately 18 per cent, while the odds of East having king doubleton (or singleton) of clubs are in single figures. It is often a good idea when in a poor contract to try to force the defenders to take their tricks early. Better play was to return a spade at trick two. Now the defence has to be accurate to beat 3 NT. If West

cashes his spades East can discard a heart and a club, but when declarer next gets in, with a heart say, he can cash his other top heart and East will be squeezed in the minors. West's best defence is to switch to a diamond after winning the second round of spades. Declarer can win in hand and play a third spade, but now West cashes his spades and exits with a second diamond. This cuts the declarer's communications with dummy.

The play of exiting with a spade is unlikely to cost. The bidding strongly suggests that spades are 5-3 and if the defenders cash their tricks declarer loses nothing and may gain substantially. □ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

New chess ratings

The top ten chess ratings are as follows: Kasparov 2,785, Karpov 2,783, Topalov 2,754, Kramnik 2,749, Anand 2,735, Kamsky 2,733, Ivanchuk 2,732, Short 2,698, Shirov and Adams 2,682, Brinlan has two players. Short and Adams in the top ten. Judit Polgar, the top woman player in the world is at number 14.

Speelman's wins

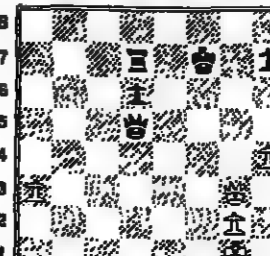
Jon Speelman, the London grandmaster, distinguished himself by scoring 100 per cent in the first three rounds of the chess Olympiad in Erevan, Armenia. Here is his win in the important 2½-½ win by England against Latvia.

White: Fridman (Latvia)
Black: Speelman (England)
Chess Olympiad
Erevan, Armenia
September 1996

English Opening

1 Nf3	b6
2 b3	Bb7
3 Bb2	0-0
4 a3	Nf6
5 c4	g6
6 Nc3	Bg7
7 Bb2	0-0
8 d4	Nd4
9 Qd2	0-0
10 Rf1	Nd7
11 d5	Nxc3
12 Bxc3	Bxc3
13 Qxc3	e5
14 b4	Rf7
15 a4	Qf6
16 Rf1	Qf6
17 Qd2	Bb8
18 Rf2	g5
19 Ne1	g4
20 Nc3	Og5
21 Nc3	bxc5
22 c5	14
23 bxc5	14
24 exd4	exd4

Diagram of final position



After six rounds of the Chess Olympiad, England shares second place with 10½ points, one point behind Russia. So far, the England team has won all six of its matches. Their latest three victims being Romania, Holland and Georgia.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd tel: 01376 321274 at £6.99 plus postage and packing.

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CIRCUMFORANEUS
a. Concentric circumferences
b. Wandering
c. Irrelevant

NODOSE
a. Aversion to medicines
b. Sleepy
c. Knobbly

EUMORPHOUS
a. Shapely
b. Good-tempered
c. Sleeping well
MINIMIFIDIANISM
a. Untrustworthy
b. Having small organs
c. Doubtful

Answers on page 43

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Staunton — Amateur, London 1842. In this position White is a rook down and in the normal course of events he would lose. However, he has a way of regaining some material. What is it?



Solution on page 43

هكذا من الأصل

FOR THE RECORD

AUSTRALIAN RULES

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE (AFL) Round 15:
Sydney 17-11 (11) Brisbane 11-10-76
Stydney 10-10 (7) Essendon 10-3-69

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Friday, Seattle 12-10 (11) Toronto 6-10 (10) New York Yankees 6-10 (10) Chicago White Sox 6-10 (10) Minnesota Twins 6-10 (10) St. Louis Cardinals 6-10 (10) Detroit Tigers 6-10 (10) Cleveland Indians 6-10 (10) Kansas City Royals 6-10 (10) Baltimore Orioles 6-10 (10) Tampa Bay Devil Rays 6-10 (10)

East division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York Yankees	68	50	.574	0
Boston	60	58	.510	8
Toronto	52	66	.442	16
Detroit	52	66	.442	16
Cleveland	52	66	.442	16
Chicago	52	66	.442	16
Minnesota	52	66	.442	16
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BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Derby Storm 110-80 (10) London Lions 110-80 (10) Crystal Palace 110-80 (10) Thames Valley 110-80 (10) Reading 110-80 (10) Maidstone 110-80 (10) Canterbury 110-80 (10) Dover 110-80 (10) Maidstone 110-80 (10) Canterbury 110-80 (10) Dover 110-80 (10)

RUGBY UNION

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP

First division

Bristol 34 Hartlepool 36

Gloucester 34 Bath 36

London Irish 34 Exeter 36

Leeds 34 Wakefield 36

Northampton 34 Worcester 36

Nottingham 34 Plymouth 36

Sheff Wed 34 Swale 36

Worcester 34 Gloucester 36

Worcester 34 Gloucester 36

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Nottingham 34 Plymouth 36

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Barmrose Corporation, Britannia Group, Inchcape, Scholl, SIG, Transtec, VCI.
 Finals: BZW Endowment Fund, Close Brothers Group, Community Hospitals, Kleinwort Development Fund, Melrose Energy, Regent Inns.
 Economists: Meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, US August Treasury budget report, US Treasury auction of short-term bills, Japan markets closed.

TOMORROW

Interims: Aroclorics Holdings, Laura Ashley, Britton Group, Chelsfield, Horace Clarkson, Hodder Headline, IFG Group, Alfred McAlpine, Pittards, Queens Moat Houses, Radius, Ruberoid, Vero Group.
 Finals: BCE Holdings, Pan American Resources, Southern Newspapers.
 Economists: UK Q2 balance of payments, UK Q2 final GDP, US Federal Open Market Committee meeting, US September consumer confidence.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Alexon, Brake Brothers, Carisbrook Shipping, Denorex, Global Group, Harlons & Crossfield, Helical Bar, Radamec Group, Ryan Hotels, Seaford, Torex Group.
 Finals: Barratt Developments, Henderson Eurotrust, A&J Mucklow, Murray Split Capital Trust.
 Economists: Bank of England to auction gilts in 2020-2022 range.

THURSDAY

Interims: British Dredging, Bruntcliffe Aggregates, Guinness, Higgs & Hill, Meltek Group, Norcor Holdings, Oliver Group, Ramco Energy, Redland, TDS Circuits.
 Finals: Beazer Homes, McBride, Schroder Japan Growth, S&P Gent, Premium Trust, Renishaw.
 Economists: UK July global trade in goods, UK August non-EU trade in goods, US weekly jobs claims.

FRIDAY

Interims: Hapworth, Joseph Holt, International Energy, Specialty Shops, Streamline Holdings.
 Finals: CH Bailey, Graystone, Arthur Shaw & Co, Verity Group.
 Economists: UK August major banking groups' monthly mortgage lending, US Q2 final GDP.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

Brokers at odds over Guinness



Tony Greener, chairman of Guinness, could serve up an improved interim dividend

GUINNESS: Brokers seem to be divided about the outcome when the group, of which Tony Greener is chairman, unveils interim figures on Thursday. NatWest Securities is taking a bullish line, forecasting pre-tax profits up from £340 million to £351 million, while UBS expects a downturn to about the £337 million mark.

UBS expects another flat performance from the spirits division, while NatWest believes it is at a turning point and that profits will improve during the second half. Operating profits from spirits are likely to be down 2 per cent, with further declines in markets such as the US, France, Brazil and Columbia.

The brewing side continues to make steady progress, with a 6 per cent increase in profitability. Earnings per share should show a small improvement of 1p to 12.1p, with the interim dividend raised from 4.2p to 4.6p.

REDLAND: Poor weather is likely to be blamed on Thursday for a downturn in first-half profits. The depressed building industry in Germany has also weighed heavily, just as it did last week when RMC Group reported a sharp drop in profits.

Forecasts differ sharply, with NatWest looking for £86 million compared with £65.2 million for the corresponding period and UBS seeing the figure nearer to £130 million. The dividend should be maintained at 5.5p net. In June, the group reported that volumes in Europe had plunged 44 per cent in the first quarter although there are signs of improvement with the first tentative signs of recovery in the German residential housing market.

LAURA ASHLEY: Half-year figures from Sears and Next last week painted a contrasting picture so brokers will be paying attention to Tuesday's interim statement from Laura Ashley. At first glance the figures should prove encouraging, with pre-tax profits doubling to £6 million. A return to the dividend list with a 1p payment is also anticipated. In May the group reported a 1 per cent increase in sales. Brokers

will want to view the overall picture after restructuring in Britain and America and recent problems associated with destocking.

HARRISON CROSFIELD: Half-year figures on Wednesday are unlikely to show much change on the corresponding period last year. Geoff Allum, of Henderson Crosthwaite, is forecasting pre-tax profits virtually unchanged at £65 million although earnings should be a touch firmer at 5.8p, compared with 5.7p, mainly because of different tax treatment. Mr

Allum said Harcros, the builder's merchant subsidiary, has proved a drag on the rest of the operations. Poor weather should see its contribution down from £21.6 million to £12 million for the full year, compared with Mr Allum's forecast for the group as a whole of £120 million at the pre-tax level. The animal feeds business also remains depressed, hindered by the BSE problem.

INCHCAPE: First-half figures today are likely to be flat, with pre-tax profits at £80 million against £83.3 million last time.

Earnings will also dip and shareholders may have to face up to a cut in the dividend from 6p to 4.3p net. Another depressed performance from the motors division is expected, with any improvement in Britain offset by declines in Hong Kong and Singapore. We may hear news about the proposed disposal of the Testing Services business, which should fetch in at least £300 million.

TARMAC: These figures will show the group continuing to clear up the mess left behind by

its loss-making housebuilding division, which has now been sold to George Wimpey. Tomorrow's figures for the first six months are unlikely to provide much cheer, with pre-tax profits down from £29.1 million to about £15 million. Tough trading in road operations will also depress the final figure. As of yet, there are few signs of improvement in roads and analysts will no doubt wish to tackle the group on the thorny questions of cash flow and cost savings. The payout should be pegged at 3p.

BEAZER HOMES: Full-year figures on Thursday will contain the worst of the housebuilding recession. Sales and profits are expected to have been affected. At the pre-tax level, profits are likely to be down from £55.7 million to about £46 million. An increase in the tax charge should produce a bigger decline in earnings, with the figure down from 14p to 11.5p. The group's strong balance sheet, containing no borrowings, should provide scope for an increase in the dividend to 6p.

BARRATT: The group is expected to show a small improvement when it unveils full-year figures on Wednesday. In contrast to Beazer, a rival, pre-tax profits are set to grow by about £3 million to £50 million, with earnings up from 16.1p to 17.3p. There is also scope for a 1p rise in the dividend to 8p.

IBSTOCK: Shareholders will probably be left to pick over the bones when half-year figures are released on Wednesday and perhaps look forward to an improvement in the current year. Pre-tax profits are set to fall from £13.5 million to just £1 million, with only £12 million pencilled in for the year as a whole. Earnings will also have collapsed from 3.6p to 0.6p although the dividend should be maintained at 0.8p net. Certainly 1996 will be a year the group will want to forget, with brick deliveries falling to their lowest level in more than 20 years. This has led to lower prices and lower volume: a deadly combination for any company struggling to make headway.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Focus falls on interest rates

The week begins with the two events that will be most closely watched by the financial markets. Today, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, meets Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, for their regular monetary meeting on interest rates.

The Bank favours a quarter-point rise in base rates to 6 per cent, but the Chancellor has declined so far to follow this inclination, citing a lack of obvious inflation pressures. On balance, the markets believe Mr Clarke will continue to hold out against higher rates, anxious to avoid political unpopularity in the run-up to the election and to maximise consumer confidence.

Tomorrow is even more crucial for world stocks and bonds with a key meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee. There appears to be a good chance that the Fed will vote in favour of a quarter-point rise in the federal funds rate as an insurance policy against inflationary pressures. Although there have been signs that the economy has been slowing down after a blistering second quarter and most price indicators have remained subdued, there has been some evidence that wages are beginning to pick up.

In Britain, the first key economic statistic is tomorrow's final second-quarter gross domestic product figure, expected to confirm growth at 0.4 per cent. The current account in the second quarter is predicted to have been in deficit to the tune of £1.2 billion. The next UK release comes on Thursday, with July global trade figures expected to show a deficit of about £800 million compared with a shortfall in June of £1.1 billion.

August non-European Union trade is also predicted to have been in deficit by £800 million, a widening from July's shortfall of £506 million. In the US, the key statistic will be final second-quarter GDP on Friday. The previous reading put growth at 4.8 per cent. The markets' focus will then switch to Saturday's Group of Seven meeting in Washington.

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Sell BPP; Buy Barmrose; Hold Inchcape. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Horace Clarkson, Hays & Robertson; Hold Blenheim. Independent on Sunday: Buy Asda Property; Logica; Avoid Simon Engineering, Cairn Energy. The Mail on Sunday: Buy Datrontech, Games Workshop; Sell Pet City.

GILT-EDGED

EMU a worry for Labour, too

The high and widening spread of gilts over bonds reflects three sets of risks — economic, political and European. Monetary Union, Gilts have underperformed most other European bond markets since the middle of the year.

This is in spite of ten-year yields falling about 15bp to around 7.4 per cent. Spreads against Germany have widened from about 150bp to 180. A number of other markets have seen spreads against Germany narrow — notably "second wave" EMU candidates, such as Sweden, Spain and Italy. Spreads of "first wave" candidates, such as France and Belgium, have been stable.

The economic risks for gilts are clearest — a strengthening consumer-led recovery, problems in containing the PSBR, and growing criticism of the Treasury's monetary stance by the Bank of England, concerned about inflation risks.

The political risks are

shorter-term and the premium to cover them is excessive. There is concern that policy ahead of the election is too lax. There is also uncertainty about the economic policy of a Labour government. However, Labour would pursue a very conservative fiscal and monetary policy at first to establish credibility. This will make the political risk premium shrink.

The most interesting risks relate to EMU. In summer, gilts seemed to offer two benefits to international investors. First, it was clear that most countries, including France and Germany, would struggle to meet the economic criteria for EMU entry. The Germans were emphasising that these criteria were paramount. If there were doubts about the timing and suitability of EMU, the risk premium in the yield of "non-participant" countries such as Denmark and the UK was too high. Second, with the increasing certainty of a change of government in the UK, a number of

investors saw Labour as likely to go into EMU. Over summer, EMU gained momentum. The new consensus is that too much political capital is invested in EMU for it to fail. It is increasingly seen as a purely political decision in which the economic criteria will be fudged — as in last week's French budget. So, EMU aspirants have outperformed the UK.

However, the new higher-risk premium in gilts again give them attractive defensive characteristics for international bond managers. EMU is largely priced into markets outside the UK and Denmark. The collapse of the ERM and the near-failure of Maastricht ratification in 1992 show the problems that can hit the EU's grand designs.

That second advantage of holding gilts in the summer was to benefit from a change of government from "anti-EMU" Tories to more "pro-EMU" Labour. This may also have been reassessed. Some analysts think Labour is as divided as the Conservatives on EMU and that these divisions will come to the fore in government.

There is a more serious threat to Labour. Lengthy EMU legislation could prove a

rallying point for the new Tory opposition. Labour's dilemma is that it does not want to waste its first 18 months in office on EMU. It is not the issue a new Labour government would choose to give it political momentum. There are few votes in EMU and the economic benefits are marginal, at best.

The markets may start to ask whether early EMU entry is really any likelier under Labour than the Conservatives. Labour's desire to keep EMU options open, while guiding economic policy to meet Maastricht targets, is little different from that of Kenneth Clarke, or for all his mounting Euro-scepticism, that of John Major. Neither Labour nor the Conservatives are likely to take sterling into EMU in the first wave. But if EMU survives, either party would be likely to limp in late.

For multi-currency investors, the main case for holding gilts is not that EMU entry is likelier under Labour than the current Government. It is as a backdrop should EMU euphoria be prickled by delay, doubt or collapse. If it is, gilts will be one of Europe's best performers, not one of the worst.

DOUGLAS JONES
Garriore Investment Management

Labour 'lifeboat' plan for fleet

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT



LABOUR is to launch an attack on the Government's shipping policy tomorrow, accusing ministers of a betrayal of one of the nation's vital industries at a cost of 40,000 jobs since 1979.

In a speech to the National Union of Maritime Aviation and Shipping Transport Officers, Glenda Jackson, left, Labour's newly appointed shipping spokeswoman, will unveil plans to save the fast-

declining British registered fleet from further decline. The proposed "lifeboat" will include more backing for training British seamen. Tax breaks for British shipping companies have not been ruled out. Ms Jackson will accuse the Government of allowing Britain to sink to 22nd in the league table of world fleets, behind countries such as Malta, Cyprus and St Vincent. Labour has also

launched a campaign in seven key Tory marginals where jobs have been lost in the shipping industry. "What ministers have done to British merchant shipping is nothing short of piracy," Ms Jackson said.

On the same day John Prescott, the deputy Labour leader and a former ships steward, is due to launch a national helpline for merchant seamen.

MAM offers deal to Kepit shareholders

BY MARTIN BARROW

MERCURY Asset Management (MAM) hopes to take advantage of the uncertainty over the future of Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit).

MAM's Mercury European Privatisation Trust (Mept) is offering Kepit's 60,000 shareholders a facility to exchange their ordinary shares and warrants for Mept shares through the Mercury Investment Trust Savings Plan without any dealing charges. Only the 0.5 per cent stamp duty will apply.

Under the facility Kepit shares and warrants will be sold in the market and the

proceeds invested in Mept shares. A deadline of October 14 has been set for applications, subject to change. Kepit is the target of rival bids from Kleinwort Benson-M&G and Touche Renmant European Growth Trust. Other fund managers have formally expressed their interest. MAM also announced it will be waiving dealing charges (normally 1 per cent with a £60 maximum) until the end of 1996 for all investors wishing to purchase Mept shares for cash under the savings plan.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 43
CIRCUMFORANEUS

(b) Wandering from house to house. From the Latin *circum* around and *foris* out of doors, abroad. Thus, a Mormon, a Jehovah's Witness, a postman, an Avon Lady, a hungry cat, or a teenager.

NODOSE

(c) Knobbly, knotty, from the Latin *nodus* a knot. The noun is *nodosity*. When you express concern about Uncle Reginald's genital *nodosity*, you are in fact doing no more than commenting on his knobbly knees.

EUMORPHOUS

(a) Well-formed. From the Greek *eu* well + *morphe* shape or form. "Ah, the eumorphous Miss Alberge. Come in, my dear, come in."

MINIMIFIDIANISM

(c) Having almost no faith or belief. From the Latin *minus* least + *fides*, *fidens* faith, believing. The condition of a commuter wondering whether a Circle Line train will ever arrive, of a freelance journalist told that the cheque is in the post, and of a parent wondering whether teenagers will put their dirty clothes in the laundry basket rather than on the floor under the bed.

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TAYLOR JOYNSON GARRETT

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SHARE CAPITAL

Authorised	Number	Amount	Issued and fully paid	Number	Amount
188,145,242	29,402,262	10	46,551,791	22,327,589	95
10,436,628	210,436,628		10,436,628	110,436,628	

The principal activity of the group is the publication of international business reference books and directories.

A copy of the prospectus relating to the Company is available during normal business hours on any business day up to and including 25 September 1996 from the Company's Secretaries, Taylor Joyson Garrett, 50 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0DX.

Sterling Publishing Group PLC
Garfield House
85-88 Edgware Road
London W2 2EA

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.08	1.90
Austria Sch	17.35	16.05
Belgium Fr	51.39	47.09
Canada \$	2.284	2.074
Cyprus Cyp£	0.757	0.702
Denmark Kr	9.82	8.82
Finland Mk	7.61	6.98
France Fr	9.40	7.75
Germany Dm	2.51	2.30
Greece Dr	380	365
Hong Kong \$	12.85	11.85
Iceland	115	95
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Sh	5.32	4.67
Italy Lira	2477	2222
Japan Yen	184.70	168.70
Malta	0.801	0.548
Netherlands Gld	2.788	2.558
New Zealand \$	2.36	2.14
Norway Kr	10.81	9.81
Portugal Esc	250.50	232.00
S Africa Rd	7.57	5.77
Spain Ptas	204.00	191.00
Sweden Kr	10.91	10.11
Switzerland Fr	2.06	1.88
Turkey Lira	149300	136300
USA \$	1.822	1.522

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar

1.5550 (+0.0007)

German mark

2.3557 (+0.0045)

Exchange index

86.1 (-0.1)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share

2840.9 (-15.9)

FT-SE 100

3964.1 (-3.8)

New York Dow Jones

5888.46 (+49.94)

Tokyo Nikkei Avge

2442.21 (+22.00)

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Share swap in ADT merger challenged

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

THE multibillion-dollar merger between ADT, the British security and car auction group, and Republic Industries, a US waste disposal company, is in serious trouble. The proposed deal has run into opposition from Western Resources, a leading shareholder.

Western Resources, a US utility company that owns 24 per cent of ADT, has said it objects to the deal and intends to stop it.

In a filing with the Securities & Exchange Commission it said it found that the all-share nature of the deal made it unacceptable.

Ron Castell, a spokesman for Republic, said: "We've had no conversations with Western yet, but we don't believe they can stop the deal."

But Western, which recently carried out the first hostile takeover of another

utility company in America, is known on Wall Street as an aggressive player.

It could greatly strengthen its hand against Republic if it exercised permission, recently granted by government, to buy up to 50 per cent of ADT common shares.

Even if Western cannot stop the merger outright it may be able to force better terms to be offered. Wall Street analysts are speculating that Western may even want to buy ADT itself.

When the deal was struck in July and Republic's shares were worth around \$29 each, it was valued at about \$5 billion.

Republic's share price has since dipped to about \$20, although recently it recovered to \$28. At this level it would represent a substantial profit for Western, which originally bought its ADT stake — which would be swapped for Repub-

lic shares in the merger — for \$14.5 a share.

However, Western says that because of the volatility in Republic's share price it does not want to own the shares. It may press for a cash element in the deal, which would upset the careful financial calculations that make the merger possible.

The deal was struck in July between Michael Ashcroft, chairman of ADT, and Wayne Huizenga, the acquisitive head of Republic, who has developed the company through 50 acquisitions in the past 18 months.

The deal would turn Republic into an international home security, car auction and waste disposal group.

Mr Huizenga began to build up Republic after selling out of Blockbuster Entertainment, the video store group that he built up from small beginnings.



Stuart Wilson, a former conductor, and Terri Jane Larkin, 11, try out Music Maker, the new Music Sales CD-Rom game

GGT deal signals bonus for staff

By JASON NISSE

GGT GROUP, the advertising agency, may be forced to offer as much as £5 million for a half stake in a public relations company that is part owned by BDDP, the French group it plans to buy for £105 million.

The deal could give bonuses of up to £200,000 each to staff who have just been given around £375,000 a head as

part of a deal completed only a few weeks ago. BDDP bought a 70 per cent stake in Financial Dynamics, the public relations company, in 1990 in a deal which is estimated to have cost the French group more than £12 million.

As part of a complicated earn-out deal it then bought the remaining 30 per cent from eight directors of Financial Dynamics for a price in

excess of £3 million, an equivalent of £375,000 each. BDDP then handed a 49 per cent stake in the company to the employees, with the shares placed in an offshore trust for tax reasons. The majority of the shares would go to the group's partners, which now number 18. The deal includes a clause that obliges the buyer of BDDP's 51 per cent interest to make an offer for the

employees' holdings. As the recent deal values Financial Dynamics at more than £10 million, GGT may have to offer a further £5 million, valuing each of the partners' stakes at nearly £200,000.

Some partners of Financial Dynamics are seeking legal advice, but Mark Bayliss, GGT finance director, said the group would not have to buy the employees' interests.

Pan Am is ready to fly again

PAN AM, one of the great names of aviation until its collapse five years ago, will take to the skies again this week (Martin Barrow writes).

Its first flight will take off from Miami for John F. Kennedy Airport in New York on Thursday and there will also be a flight from New York to Los Angeles. Pan Am plans one daily flight on each route.

The US Department of Transportation gave its clearance for the new Pan Am to begin operations last week.

The new company is a modest outfit offering cheap fares and hoping to reap the benefits of an illustrious name.

The old Pan Am, which flew from 1927 until it collapsed in 1991 in the aftermath of the Lockerbie bombing, is still being liquidated in a federal bankruptcy court.

Charles Cobb, an entrepreneur from Florida, bought the name and logo of Pan American World Airways from the estate for \$1.3 million.

Scrap over litter bins in prospect

A MEMO is circulating among directors at the Corporation of London offering them the chance to bid for a litter bin. Increased security in the City means the cleansing department has 1,000 bins for disposal. There are four types, some 1.5 metres in height and weighing up to 360kg. Department heads are being encouraged to grab the bins before bidding begins this week. The memo points out the "attractive" cast metal crest attached to the bins, and adds: "Although primarily used as a litter bin, the type 1 free-standing variety also makes an attractive planter."

Pudding paradise

PICKWICK Pudding will be on the menu again from Wednesday when the George & Vulture opens its doors after its £750,000 refurbishment. Fortunately for regulars at Charles Dickens's old watering hole opposite the Royal Exchange, any changes to the building will not be visible. Ray Hall, manager and Spurs supporter, will still be there, serving his much-sought-after steak and kidney pudding complete with an oyster.

DOING the rounds is the one about Elm House, home of the Serious Fraud Office, suggesting the building is to be renamed Maxwell House.



O'Reilly: sparkling host

Conversation gem

TONY O'REILLY continues to dine off his most romantic of gestures — parting with £1.75 million to buy his wife the diamond ring that once belonged to Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Brian Patterson, chief executive at Waterford Wedgwood, another of Mr Bean's many interests, tells me that when he and his wife were dining with O'Reilly in their Castlemartin mansion recently, he was seated next to the diamond. "It was quite a talking point," whispers Patterson. "My wife was allowed to try it on, and she hasn't been the same since."

Walpole warriors

THE Walpole Committee is busy packing its bags today before flying off to the States on its first major trip overseas. The group that was formed

THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

four years ago to promote British excellence overseas, by companies including Beefeater Gin and the Savoy Group, is sponsoring an evening at the swanky Tavern on the Green in Central Park. To mark the event, a seven-foot model of Concorde and a Range Rover will be parked in the restaurant garden. Walker's shortbread cocktail outtakes will be served as canapés, and empty whisky barrels are being flown over for a Glenfiddich bar. The Earl of Lichfield will also be there with his new exhibition of photographs "Lichfield's Britain".

GILES SHEPARD, general manager at the Ritz, is playing the loyalty card and extending his hospitality to hungry fellow members of his private club. While White's Club on St James's Street, only minutes away from the Ritz, is gutting its kitchen, Mr Shepard is inviting members to enjoy a menu created especially for them at the Ritz — and at a discount price. Anyone would think he was trying to attract new business.

Bar know-how

RICHARD SHERWOOD, owner of Ashwick House Hotel in Exmoor, overlooking the wooded Barle Valley, has come up with a novel scheme for keeping kleptomaniac guests at bay. Sherwood tells me that he has put up notices above the minibars in all his Edwardian rooms stating: "We have learnt that you need a razor blade to cut the seal around a mini vodka bottle. You can then drink the contents and fill it up with water. For whisky and rum it is a little more difficult, but if you order early morning tea, you can fill the bottles with unskimmed milk."

Impeccable sauce

THE Guild of Aviation Artists' latest quarterly newsletter reports that visitors to its recent exhibition were asked to note how they had heard of the event. The Times was high on the list, and an advertisement in another national newspaper was noted by one visitor. The same number, in fact, as had received the information from another veritable source — "slept with the artist".

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MMC verdict on South West Water bids ready for Lang

By Christine Buckley
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT



Ian Lang's decision on the politically sensitive bids by Wessex and Severn Trent is expected within six weeks

Workers' pay up 26% under Tories

By Our Business Staff

THE take-home pay of British workers increased by 26 per cent in real terms between 1979 and 1994, a report claims today. That figure, calculated after taking account of inflation, compares with real increases of 1.8 per cent for French and 2.5 per cent for German workers over the same period, according to the economist Walter Eltis, who analysed data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

In his survey of the consequences of the last 17 years of Conservative economic policies, published by the Centre for Policy Studies, Dr Eltis states that Japanese workers saw their real take-home pay increase by 21.2 per cent between 1979 and 1994 while in the United States it fell by 7.2 per cent.

He emphasises that the bulk of the British increase in take-home pay occurred before 1992. Between 1992 and 1994 it rose just 0.2 per cent. Dr Eltis, chief economic adviser to Michael Heseltine while he was President of the Board of Trade from 1992 until 1995, said: "When the period since 1979 is considered as a whole, unskilled workers obtained substantial pay increases in Britain and skilled workers still greater increases, while real take-home pay stagnated in the leading European economies and fell in the United States."

Dr Eltis points out that at first sight it would appear startling that comparative wages per worker have risen so much in Britain when consumption per head rose at much the same rate as in France and Germany.

"This has occurred because British taxation has been rearranged so that it falls far less heavily on productive activity," he points out. "The fact that increases in benefit payments have been linked to the rate of price inflation, rather than wage inflation,

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) will this week submit to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, its verdict on the rival bids by Wessex Water and Severn Trent for South West Water.

Mr Lang, who is thought unlikely to announce his decision for at least six weeks, will be acutely aware that clearance for both bids will herald a new wave of consolidation in the privatised utility sector at a sensitive time in the run-up to the general election.

Ian Byatt, the water regulator, and consumer groups oppose the merger of rival water companies because of the likely erosion of competition in the industry needed to ensure performance and for pricing controls to be applied. There are further fears that it will become more difficult to detect cross-subsidies involving water supply, which is regulated, and waste management, which is not.

It is thought, however, that if bidders can offer sufficient customer benefits, promising lower bills, they should be able to silence critics. Water charges in the South West are among the highest in the UK.

Sharon Dee, of the Consumers' Association, said: "Ideally we wouldn't want to see any reduction in comparators but we also recognise that the South West has had problems and we would want to see what was on offer for customers. There are many trade-offs possible. These are changing times for the industry."

The cases for and against Severn Trent and Wessex are different, but it is doubtful that the MMC would recommend one bid and block the other. While Wessex will argue benefits will derive from the joint operation of neighbouring water companies, the larger Severn Trent claims its greater resources and financial muscle will provide greater customer benefits. Size, however, may actually work against Severn Trent. Should its bid succeed, it would have about one in five of all English and Welsh water consumers.

If the MMC advises against the bids for South West it is likely to be on the grounds of protecting the customer from too large a water company and maintaining the mechanics of regulation within the industry.

Since Severn Trent and Wessex targeted South West the company has set about a programme of improvements that its predators privately admit has yielded results. If

Mr Lang allows the bids to proceed it is likely there will be other contenders. Southern Company, the US utility whose prospective bid for National Power was vetoed, has been linked with South West.

Southern already has a controlling interest in Sweb, the electricity company that serves the South West.

Racal on target for £80m MoD contract

By Martin Barrow

RACAL ELECTRONICS is close to securing an £80 million Ministry of Defence contract for new surveillance radar for the Royal Navy's Sea King helicopter fleet. The contract, following on from the £40 million contract to supply China with early warning radar, will be a variant of Racal's Searchwater radar system.

Sources close to the deal believe that the success of the Searchwater radar system, and the fact that it was also chosen by the MoD for the Nimrod 2000 replacement surveillance aircraft in July, will tip the balance in Racal's favour.

Racal is up against GEC-Marconi and America's Lockheed Martin Corporation for the contract. A decision is expected before the end of this month. The award of the contract would help to secure jobs at Crawley in West Sussex and Leicester and at Racal's West Lothian site at Linlithgow in Lothian.

BA awaits referral decision

By Jon Ashworth



Ayling: wants open skies

BRITISH AIRWAYS may learn this week whether its proposed alliance with American Airlines is to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The Office of Fair Trading is expected to pass its recommendation to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, by the end of the month. It remains unclear how long Mr Lang will take to decide on his course of action. The proposed alliance has been criticised by rivals including Virgin Atlantic, which claims that an enlarged BA-American would dominate the

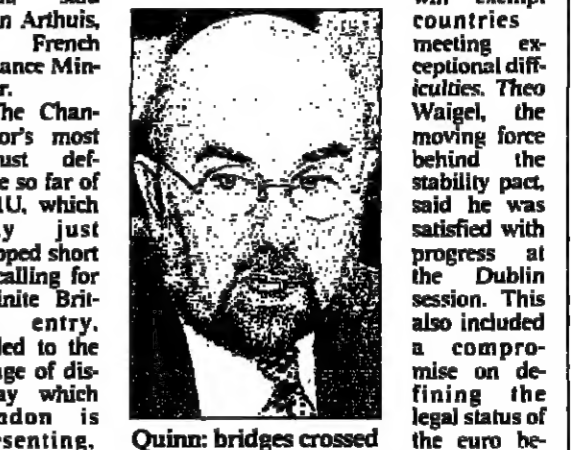
north Atlantic route. BA, whose chief executive is Robert Ayling, and American say an open skies agreement between America and the UK — a precondition for an alliance — would increase competition and drive down fares. The UK and US Governments have yet to set a date for resuming talks on "open skies". American carriers want open access to UK airports, rights to fly onwards to other destinations and guaranteed access to Heathrow. The UK wants similar rights for British carriers in the US.

Hopes over monetary union lifted by new ERM

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN DUBLIN

THE European dream of monetary union moved closer to reality yesterday after a session at which ministers approved machinery for stabilising the future euro. EU finance ministers and central bank governors meeting in Dublin Castle agreed on a new exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) that will link currencies outside the EMU zone with the euro, as the future currency is to be called, and cleared the way for a system for dissuading governments inside monetary union from excessive public spending.

Praise from Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, for monetary union appeared to reflect a psychological shift across Europe as the EU completes the foundations for its most ambitious project since the European community was founded in 1957. "It seems some people are seeing the



Quinn: bridges crossed. The Chancellor's most robust defence of EMU, which only just stopped short of calling for definite British entry, added to the image of disarray which London is presenting. Quinn: bridges crossed. The Irish Finance Minister and chairman of the Dublin session, said: "The British voice is not clear. Britain is failing to carry the full punch. It should have in these discussions."

France, Germany and the handful of other likely founders of the euro are eager to bind Britain into the currency. Their biggest worry is that London will stay out and then score "competitive advantage" by refusing to join the new ERM and allowing the pound to slide against the euro. Aiming at Britain, Mr Arthuis renewed French demands for sanctions against member states which "disrupted" the euro-zone with such behaviour.

Mr Clarke strongly supported the so-called "stability pact" for ensuring that countries maintain fiscal discipline once they have swapped their currencies for

the euro. The stability system, which envisages levying a heavy fine on delinquent governments, was intended to "underline the credibility of the zone holding together", he said. Key details in the plan have still to be resolved before EU leaders give their blessing in Dublin in December. Germany, which has been leading the drive for tough and rapid sanctions on wayward governments, wants them to deposit 0.25 per cent of gross domestic product for each percentage point of deficit beyond 3 per cent of GDP, the ceiling set in the Maastricht treaty. Failure to return to fiscal virtue would cause the deposit to be forfeited. The other member states want less. There is broad agreement on the need for a grace period of about nine months and for special exceptions which will exempt countries meeting exceptional difficulties. Theo Waigel, the moving force behind the stability pact, said he was satisfied with progress at the Dublin session. This also included a compromise on defining the legal status of the euro before its formal launch. While optimism over EMU now abounds among the northern states, the anxiety is growing among Europe's southern tier, where Italy, Spain, Greece and Portugal are worried that they will be excluded and relegated to a second-class Europe.

They embraced the new-style ERM, which will see currencies pivot around the euro with a 15 per cent margin for fluctuation, as a half-way house to membership of the inner circle. Mr Quinn, whose country will find it difficult to join EMU without Britain, hailed the weekend session as the completion of a ministerial planning effort that opened in Versailles in early 1995. "A lot of the particular bridges or difficulties associated with the single currency project have been identified and successfully crossed," he said.

FITNESS FIRST, the health club chain, is joining the Alternative Investment Market in an institutional placing that will raise up to £8 million. The company, expected to be valued at £20 million, broke into profit last year and made £504,000 in the nine months to July 31. Meanwhile, Crown Prod-

Fitness First ready to join AIM

ucts, the giftware and play equipment group that is one of AIM's home-grown success stories, is expected to report its first profit, on sales that jumped to £16 million from £3 million over the year to June last September.

knocked out of Scotland's Coca-Cola Cup. Trocadero's shares continued their decline, falling from 66p to 62p, after an institutional investor unloaded stock. The FT-SE AIM index gained 1.5 points over the week, and closed at 1,041.80.

FITNESS FIRST									
1996	High	Low	Mid cap (million)	Price pence	Why	Ytd %	P/E	1996	High
150p	132	150	15.00	132	150	+5	4.6	10.0	132
134p	109	134	19.20	109	134	+1	4.6	10.0	109
119p	67	119	20.00	67	119	-3	9.5	3	67
62p	18	62	3.44	18	62	+5	6.2	5	18
15	14	15	14.4	14	15	-10	1.4	1	14
101	98	101	21.90	98	101	-10	3.8	15.6	98
210	120	210	20.50	120	210	-10	3.8	15.6	120
20p	7	20	15.70	7	20	-10	3.8	15.6	7
21p	13	21	15.70	13	21	-10	3.8	15.6	13
58	32	58	6.48	32	58	+1	3.7	1	32
24	10	24	7.75	10	24	-10	3.7	1	10
480	380	480	46.00	380	480	-10	4.8	12.9	380
985	885	985	5.84	885	985	-10	8.2	2	885
121	48	121	58.70	48	121	-10	58.9	5	48
9	7	9	1.78	7	9	-10	58.9	5	7
81	32	81	30.70	32	81	-10	3.5	1	32
141	68	141	19.50	68	141	-10	12.1	6	68
64p	55	64	1.16	55	64	-10	1.6	1	55
148p	129	148	45.00	129	148	-10	14.5	2	129
7	5	7	8.37	5	7	-10	4.7	1	5
68	62	68	12.10	62	68	-10	2	1	62
46	37	46	3.33	37	46	-10	3.8	9.4	37
150	140	150	1.01	140	150	-10	3.8	9.4	140
70	70	70	0.34	70	70	-10	2.0	29.0	70
107	98	107	7.81	98	107	-10	1.8	16.2	98
510	500	510	9.95	500	510	-10	0.7	17.7	500
134p	116	134	14.10	116	134	-10	1.8	16.2	116
110	109	110	0.12	109	110	-10	2.2	7.2	109
133p	119	133	0.05	119	133	-10	1.9	12.8	119
213	95	213	4.43	95	213	-10	8.2	2	95
75	55	75	8.00	55	75	-10	0.7	19.1	55
3p	2	3	2.30	2	3	-10	0.7	19.1	2
98	68	98	14.40	68	98	-10	8.2	2	68
43	29	43	9.58	29	43	-10	3.7	24.3	29
108	91	108	3.01	91	108	-10	1.8	11.3	91
72	55	72	1.20	55	72	-10	1.8	11.3	55
50p	41	50	6.15	41	50	-10	2.7	14.8	41
132p	6550	132	63.30	6550	132	-10	2.7	14.8	6550
124	109	124	16.40	109	124	-10	2.7	14.8	109
86	81	86	7.44	81	86	-10	6.1	5	81
100	53	100	133.50	53	100	-10	6.1	5	53
215	120	215	13.30	120	215	-10	13.9	1	120
185	173	185	19.70	173	185	-10	4.9	12.7	173
155p	131	155	24.70	131	155	-10	6.6	1	131
35	25	35	0.99	25	35	-10	3.1	1	25
510	500	510	12.00	500	510	-10	1.8	1	500
19	15	19	0.47	15	19	-10	0.5	61.5	15
100	85	100	0.24	85	100	-10	0.5	61.5	85
100	85	100	0.19	85	100	-10	0.5	61.5	85
125	115	125	0.84	115	125	-10	0.5	61.5	115
225	215	225	0.17	215	225	-10	6.4	9.9	215
44	37	44	0.58	37	44	-10	11.7	17.1	37
124p	68	124	3.39	68	124	-10	7.2	2	68
109	97	109	22.10	97	109	-10	6.1	1	97
63	43	63	21.50	43	63	-10	3.0	14.6	43
495	152	495	1.30	152	495	-10	3.0	14.6	152
15	10	15	0.35	10	15	-10	9.3	9.2	10
370	360	370	3.66	360	370	-10	1.7	12.8	360
17	11	17	6.25	11	17	-10	1.7	12.8	11
375	365	375	3.70	365	375	-10	1.7	12.8	365
87p	78	87	15.20	78	87	-10	7.2	2	78
4	3	4	3.07	3	4	-10	7.2	2	3
137	38	137	0.30	38	137	-10	2.4	23.0	38
246	148	246	50.70	148	246	-10	1.4	8.7	148
200	60	200	42.40	60	200	-10	1.4	8.7	60
116	61	116	20.40	61	116	-10	1.4	8.7	61
125	120	125	5.82	120	125	-10	3.2	3	120
475	325	475	10.30	325	475	-10	1.1	1	325
53	41	53	2.30	41	53	-10	1.1	1	41
138	106	138	41.40	106	138	-10	1.1	1	106

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Philip Bassett on the push for European works councils

Phoney war comes to an end

The first company to face legal requirements that come into force today to set up a European-style consultative works council is likely to be BTR, the UK-based industrial conglomerate. This comes in spite of the UK Government's formal opt-out from new Brussels employment law.

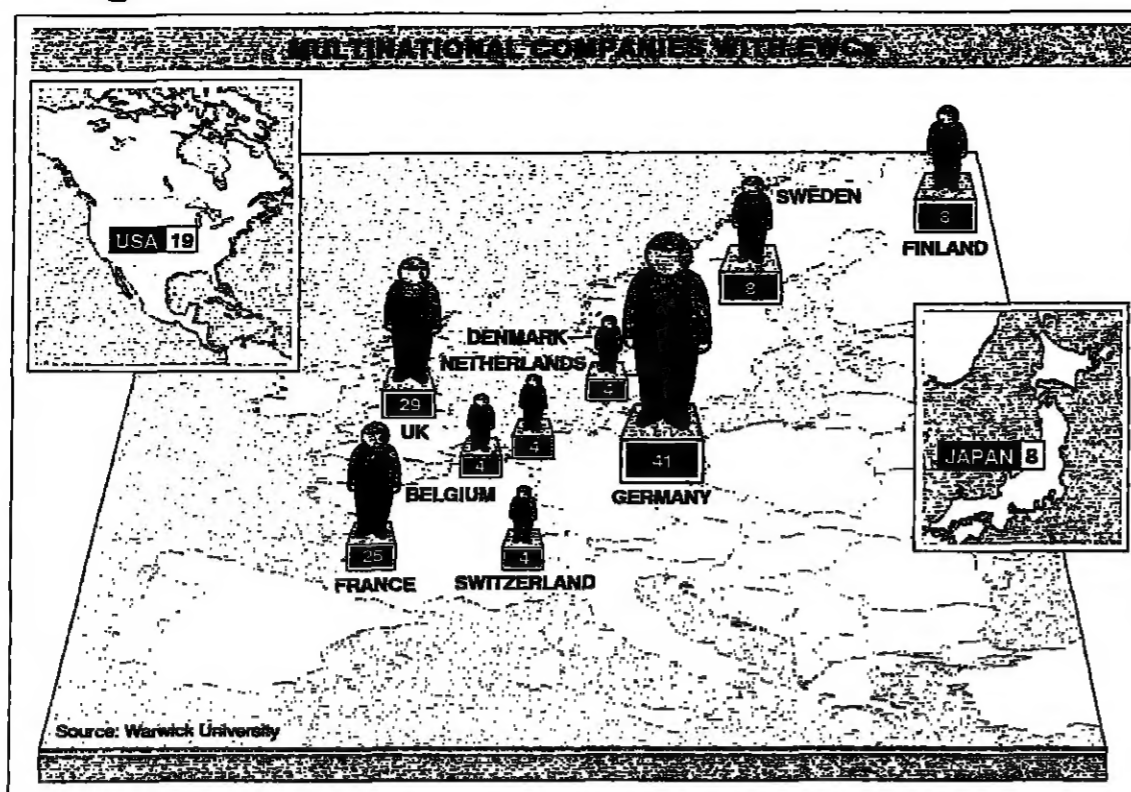
Trade union leaders from nine BTR centres across Europe met in London last week to plan an enforcement strategy against the company in what may well be the first move of many to increase employee involvement in big companies often in the face of employer opposition.

With the passing yesterday of the deadline for the voluntary introduction of European works councils (EWCs) under a European Union legal directive, companies that have not yet brought in such arrangements to inform and consult their workforces on key business issues face a legal battle with Europe.

Business must now take stock of how far EWCs have come. In spite of the Government's opt-out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty, as the deadline for their voluntary introduction passes. While most companies affected by the directive have not yet introduced an EWC, the rush of UK companies doing so within the past week or so — Ford, Barclays, Courtaulds and even, most controversially, the Conservative-supporting Hanson for some of its subsidiaries — indicates how extensive the impact has been.

The legal implications of the EWC directive are complex enough to make corporate lawyers rub their hands in anticipation of fat fees, and to keep Britain's business organisations sending out rivers of advice. But, in broad terms, the directive — passed in September 1994, but which came into force yesterday — sets down that:

□ Transnational companies with at least 1,000 employees across the EU, including at least 150 in two separate member states, will have to introduce an EWC. Although the UK's opt-out means that Britain is exempted from introducing the directive into its national law, UK-based transnational companies that fit this threshold are required to introduce it. While they do not have to include their UK employees within the scope of an EWC, most are doing so to avoid duplication.



□ Companies affected had until yesterday to introduce agreed arrangements for EWCs, which has allowed them to reach deals best suited to their businesses — though from today such deals can be legally challenged.

□ From today an EWC can be triggered by 100 employees in two EU member states, or their representatives, setting up a special negotiating body to establish an EWC.

□ If that fails to agree an EWC, one will have to be introduced in line with strict rules laid down by the directive.

Although Germany, with its strength in chemicals and metal-working which are the sectors where most EWCs have been set up, has the highest number, British companies have been setting up EWCs faster than any EU member state in spite of the UK opt-out. In Britain, almost one in three of the companies that will be affected by the directive have already done so, compared with about one in seven in Germany and one in eight in France.

UK-based companies that have agreed EWCs before yesterday's

deadline include Bass, GKN, Zeneca, NatWest, Pearson, Guinness, BT, ICL, Norwich Union, Pilkington, T&N, Arjo Wiggins Appleton, Scottish & Newcastle and BOC. British Steel, for instance, agreed its EWC at the end of July for all its 53,000 employees in the 14 countries in which it operates — although 85 per cent are in the UK, and their representatives will take the majority of the 29 employee seats on the EWC, which will meet twice yearly and will be chaired by Brian Moffat, BS's chief executive.

United Biscuits was the first UK company to sign an EWC deal two years ago, and both the company and the GMB, its principal trade union, say it has now bedded down well. Mike Wilkinson, UB's human resources director, said: "I think the employees have been taken aback by the amount and quality of information given to them. Management has been impressed by the constructive questions."

UB acknowledges that it introduced its EWC early to avoid the more rigid requirements of the

directive. Business, echoed by government ministers, claims this is precisely what the opt-out is meant to achieve more generally, by preserving choice for companies.

"We feel vindicated in opposing the directive," says John Cridland, CBI human resources director, "because of the wide variety of decisions that companies have made and the fact that there is no obvious pattern; that is precisely why we argued that a fixed works council was the wrong way to do it at the European level."

Notions about EWCs have spread, too, into companies not directly affected. Works council arrangements are likely to be challenged at, for example, Marks & Spencer and PepsiCo, where unions believe they do not fit the directive properly. But, even in companies not "in scope" of the directive, as the Euro-jargon puts it, the idea is in place. J Sainsbury, for instance, recently set up consultative staff councils. Peter Reid, European director

of the EEF engineering employers, which attracted right-wing criticism when it advised companies closely on what to do as yesterday's deadline drew nearer, praises the pragmatism of UK companies: "For a lot, this has been something which they have not wished to do. But they have taken a rational approach. They have got on with it — wanting to do it well."

But what EWC analysts are now focusing on is what will take place from today. In Britain, about 40 multinationals within scope of the directive have missed the deadline, or chosen not to take action, including GEC, Cookson, Kingfisher, Williams Holdings, Laird, Tarmac, GrandMet, Burmah Castrol, TI and Lucas.

Although technically the voluntary deadline has now passed, EWC experts believe that a new voluntary push will be directed at such companies. Those which do not comply face triggering an EWC if they refuse.

John Monks, TUC General Secretary, says today: "Many companies will regret losing the chance to take the voluntary approach. Now they must comply with the stricter provisions of European law — and the unions will be making sure they do so."

Reluctant company responses will be helped by the so-far patchy implementation into national law of the EWC directive. Forthcoming research by Mark Hall at Warwick University for the EWC Bulletin, a specialist works council journal, will show that so far only six countries — Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Norway and Sweden — have EWC provisions in place, although others including Germany and France are likely to do so by the end of the year. Even so, EWC campaigners believe that the widespread introduction of works councils in the UK ahead of yesterday's deadline, and their likely further spread, makes a nonsense of the Government's opt-out.

"The social opt-out is a farce," says John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB union. "This demonstrates that business is taking a practical view — even if the Conservative Government doesn't want them to." What companies like BTR and others are now likely to find is that, on consulting their employees, that practical view is from today backed by tough Euro-teeth.

RADIO CHOICE

Great Gatsby, great radio

Book at Bedtime: The Great Gatsby. Radio 4, 10.45pm.

It takes three pages of *Gatsby*, perhaps less, to know that what we are reading is a 20th-century masterpiece. It takes less than three minutes of Sam Roberts' reading of the novel, adapted by Neville Teller, to know that the same is true of what we hear tonight. Roberts is the son of screen stars Lauren Bacall and Jason Roberts. The elusive nature of F. Scott Fitzgerald's writing, hinting at things rather than positively defining them, demands a reader of exceptional sensitivity. Roberts is such a reader. Tonight's is only the first episode (of ten), but it is already clear that what we have here is a treatment of *Gatsby* that is much more attuned to Scott Fitzgerald than the 1949 and 1974 cinema versions.

Beethoven's Archduke. Radio 3, 1.00pm.

This is music of friendship and gratitude. A good biography couldn't tell us more about Beethoven and his generous patron, Archduke Rudolph of Austria. Beethoven dedicated his Piano Trio Op 97 to the Archduke to whom he had taught music for 20 years, on and off. They were the best of friends. Beethoven could come and go as he pleased in the royal apartments, and in return for the many works he dedicated to the Archduke, Rudolph composed a set of variations on a theme of Beethoven. He also ensured Beethoven's solvency provided he remained in Vienna, which he did. The *Archduke* is played today by the Kalichstein/Laredo/Robinson Trio. Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

PM Stereo 8.00am Chris Evans 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa 1.00pm 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 In Concert: Sting recorded at Finsbury Park 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Claire Sturgess 4.00am Clio Warrin

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Alex Leslie 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.00 John Durn 7.00 Steve Wright 7.30 Malcolm Lockwood 8.30 Big Band Special 9.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00 On the Air (6.00) 10.30 The Jazzesons 12.00am Charles Nove 3.00 Steve Madden

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 6.30 The Magazine, with Clara Macell, 10.30 News from Europe 12.00 Midday with Mel Inc 12.30pm Moneycheck 2.00pm Fussco on Five, incl 3.00pm Actually 4.00pm Nalor, incl at 5.45pm Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.20pm Sports Bulletin 7.30pm Games That Changed Football: Spurs v Arsenal in 1991 — the first FA Cup semi-final to be played at Wembley 8.00 The Saturday Match Coverage of Wimbledon v Southampton from Selhurst Park 10.00 News Talk, with Mike Baker 11.00pm Night Express, with Valerie Sanson 12.00am The Borders: Slide of Midnight, with Linda McDermott and Tim Grundy 2.00am Up All Night, with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Early Breakfast 7.00 Paul Ross 8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Alan Pearson 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00pm Driveline, with Peter Dinkley 7.00 Mox Des's Sportszone 10.00 James Walsh 1.00am Mike Dickinson

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the Hour, 5.30am Europe Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 Soundbyte 7.30 Andy Kershaw 8.15 On the Shelf 8.30 The Village Show 9.15 The Ecological Flightback in Latin America 9.30 Keep to the Path 10.05 Business 10.15 Anything Goes 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.30 BBC English 11.45 On the Street 12.30 Onibus 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Andy Kershaw 2.05 Outlook 3.30 John Peel 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain Today 6.10 World Today 6.25 Take Five 6.30 News in German 7.30 Brian of Britain 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Words of Faith 8.30 Musicbeat 9.15 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 The Health of Planet Earth 10.45 Material World 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.10am Take Five 12.15 Record News 12.30 Musicbeat: Hit List 1.30 Global Connections 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Outlook 2.55 Words of Faith 3.30 Mandarin 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today 1.00am Mel Cooper

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Peel 8.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susan Harcourt 2.00pm Lunchtime Concert, Howells (Concerto for String Orchestra) 3.00 James Cuck 6.00 Classic Nowhere 6.30 Sonatas, Dances (Piano Sonata, Op 37) 7.00 Celebrity Choir 8.00 Evening Concert, Copland (Naxos Study on a Jewish Theme), Bruch (No. 4), Op 47; Bloch (Piano Triptych: Hebraïque), Mendelssohn (Concerto in E for two pianos and orchestra) 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Russ 8.00 Rhod Sharp 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Horne 7.00 Paul Coyne (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Jeremy Clark

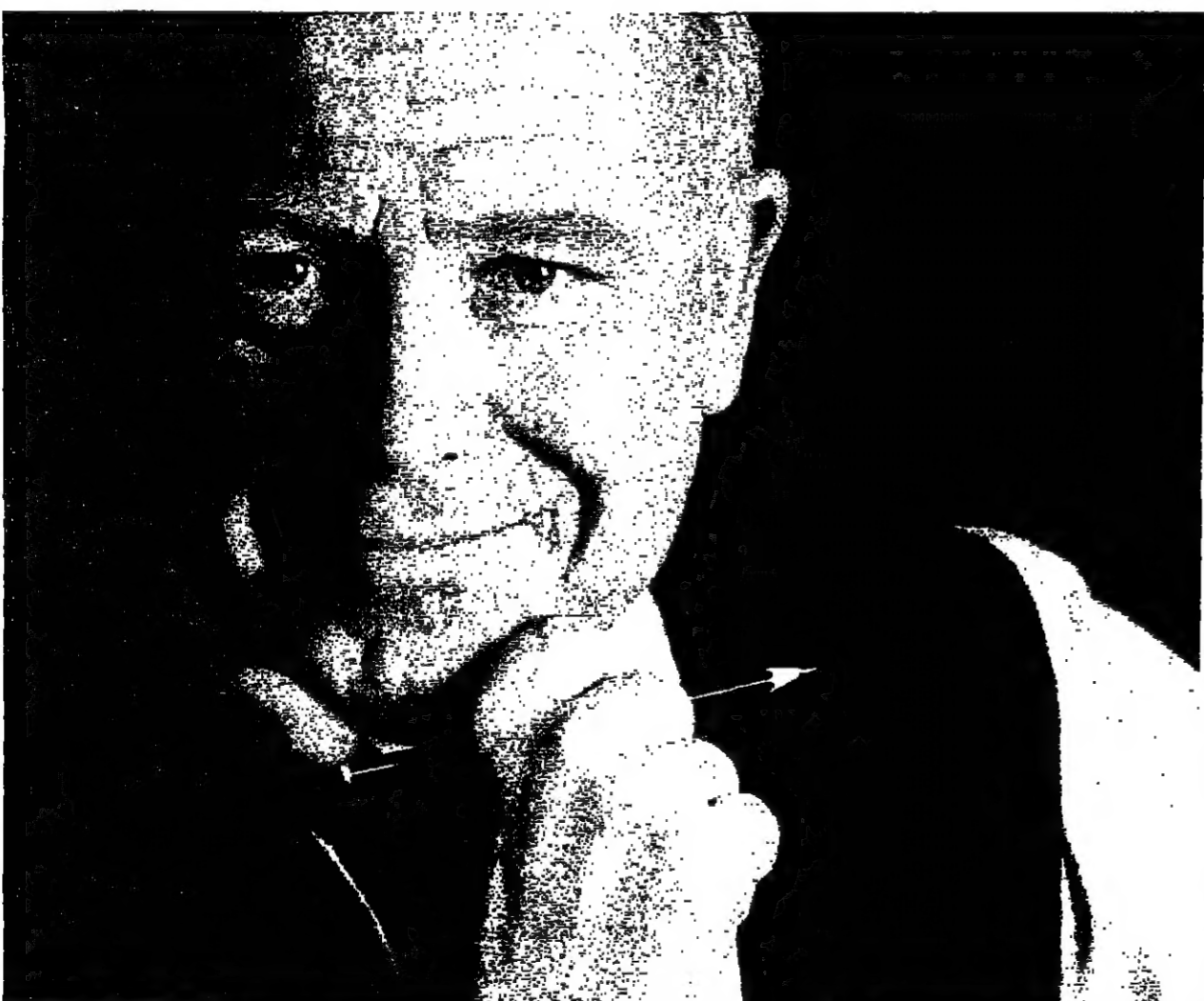
RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Presented by Andrew MacGregor. Bruckner (Spring Quartet in F); Respighi (Ancient Airs and Dances, Suite No. 1); Schostakovich (Sonata for 16 in D); Beethoven (String Quartet in D, Op 18 No 3); Debussy (Faubourg d'Amour, Suite No. 1); Ravel (Symphony No 3 in D minor) 9.00 Morning Collection, with Paul Gambacciani. Nielsen (Overture: Helios); Verdi (Ballet: La Perle Noire); Schubert (Symphony No 5 in B flat) 10.00 Musical Encounters. Beethoven (Das Kriegerdenkmal, Act 1); Mozart (Quintet in E flat, K452); Haydn (Fanny's Story); Debussy (Trois Chansons de Charles D'Orleans); Wagner (Das Rheingold, excerpt); Adams (The Chairman Dances); Carter (Across the Yard) 12.00 Composers of the Week: The Court of James VI 12.30pm Across the Borders. The first of five programmes, to accompany the Composers of the Week series, featuring music in Europe during the reign of James VI of Scotland 1.00 News; Beethoven's Archduke. See Choice 2.00 The BBC Orchestra. The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Robin Holloway and Mark-Anthony Turnage. Holloway (Wagner Nights); Turnage (Your Rockaby); Rachmaninov (Symphony No 3 in A minor) 3.45 Voices. Ian Burnside takes to the road with some Wanderlust songs (y) 5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing 7.10 Farming Today 8.25 Prayer for the Day 8.30 Today incl 7.25, 8.25 Sports News 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 The Swiss Family Parnassus. Lou Hinch presents from his classic book of comic world travel 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, with Melvyn Bragg 10.00 News; Battling with the Peat (Fell, Ronald & Hutton) presides over the historical parlor game 10.10 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour 11.30 Money Box Live (0171) 890 4444 12.00 News; You and Yours with Lesley Riddoch 12.25pm The Labour Exchange, with Tony McGrath 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World At One. Nick Clarke with the Liberal Democrats in Brighton and James Cox in London 1.40 The Archers (y) 1.55 News; I Am a Donut, with Mike Bradwell. Ricky Fisher is given the job of teaching former East German communists how to be western style capitalists (1/2) 3.00 The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow reviews William Gibson's new book *Idoru* and also sees Robert Lopez's staging of *Seven Streams of the River Ota* 4.45 Short Story: A Bit of Company, by Colin Greenland 5.00 PM, with Chris Lowe and Charlie Lee-Potter 5.55 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 News Quiz A satirical look back at the week's news as Simon Hoggart quizzes Andy Hamilton, Tony Banks, Jeremy Hardy and Times columnist Alan Coren (y) 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 The Food Programme, in the first of a new series, Derek Cooper goes on the bed and breakfast trail in Hertford (y) 7.45 The Monday Play: The Last Dance. Paul Brennan's classic tale of romance and revolution set in 19th-century Paris. With David Ross, Colin Tierney and Jo Stone-Fewings 9.15 Uncle Mort's Celtic Fringe. Concluding Carter Brennan's epic journey through Wales with his Uncle Mort 9.30 Kaleidoscope (y) 9.55 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Great Gatsby. See Choice (1/10) 11.00 Chain Reaction, with Sarah Dunant. The future of Hong Kong is under the spotlight as a hypothetical scenario unfolds ahead of the handover to China (3/5) 11.40 Reading About: The Right-Klump, by Mark Twain. Read by William Roberts (y) 12.00 News incl 12.27am approx Weather 12.30 The Late Book: Amongst Women, by John McGahern (010) (y) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00am World Service

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing 7.10 Farming Today 8.25 Prayer for the Day 8.30 Today incl 7.25, 8.25 Sports News 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 The Swiss Family Parnassus. Lou Hinch presents from his classic book of comic world travel 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, with Melvyn Bragg 10.00 News; Battling with the Peat (Fell, Ronald & Hutton) presides over the historical parlor game 10.10 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour 11.30 Money Box Live (0171) 890 4444 12.00 News; You and Yours with Lesley Riddoch 12.25pm The Labour Exchange, with Tony McGrath 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World At One. Nick Clarke with the Liberal Democrats in Brighton and James Cox in London 1.40 The Archers (y) 1.55 News; I Am a Donut, with Mike Bradwell. Ricky Fisher is given the job of teaching former East German communists how to be western style capitalists (1/2) 3.00 The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow reviews William Gibson's new book *Idoru* and also sees Robert Lopez's staging of *Seven Streams of the River Ota* 4.45 Short Story: A Bit of Company, by Colin Greenland 5.00 PM, with Chris Lowe and Charlie Lee-Potter 5.55 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 News Quiz A satirical look back at the week's news as Simon Hoggart quizzes Andy Hamilton, Tony Banks, Jeremy Hardy and Times columnist Alan Coren (y) 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 The Food Programme, in the first of a new series, Derek Cooper goes on the bed and breakfast trail in Hertford (y) 7.45 The Monday Play: The Last Dance. Paul Brennan's classic tale of romance and revolution set in 19th-century Paris. With David Ross, Colin Tierney and Jo Stone-Fewings 9.15 Uncle Mort's Celtic Fringe. Concluding Carter Brennan's epic journey through Wales with his Uncle Mort 9.30 Kaleidoscope (y) 9.55 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Great Gatsby. See Choice (1/10) 11.00 Chain Reaction, with Sarah Dunant. The future of Hong Kong is under the spotlight as a hypothetical scenario unfolds ahead of the handover to China (3/5) 11.40 Reading About: The Right-Klump, by Mark Twain. Read by William Roberts (y) 12.00 News incl 12.27am approx Weather 12.30 The Late Book: Amongst Women, by John McGahern (010) (y) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00am World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.5-99.5. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198. MW 198 (12.45-6.55am). CLASSIC FM. 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8. MW 1197. 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1088. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Darr, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McManus.



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Cats offered a licence to remain fat

What is a fat cat? A witty utility boss, asked if he might be one, claimed he was merely a slightly overweight moggy. That was not just a play on words. The message is that he is doing well thank you, but is not one of those millionaires demonised by Gordon Brown who send their sons to Eton.

Utility bosses inhabit a free-fire zone in the battle of political cant over top people's pay. Even John Major condemns them, though he favours capitalists doing as well as they can. He needs to pander to popular feeling against highly paid captains of industry loading more into their own wallets as they deny or sack employees. Labour's stance is only subtly different. By attacking bosses of privatised monopolies, it can pretend they are profiting at consumers' expense while claiming to befriend competitive private business. That distinction is false. Chief executives of all big quoted groups have to compete for the favours of fund managers, who themselves compete with each other in portfolio performance. Success is measured, in the eye of the beholder, by share price.

Eliminating punitive taxation, once blamed for escalating nominal pay, gave boards a bigger incentive to pay themselves more. The spiral has several motors. American influence was one. Board pay is driven by the market in finance directors, whose benchmarks are set by earnings of partners in big accountancy firms. Pay set by one's peers tends to be generous. From that rising base, chief executives' pay is ratcheted up by a star system, as in entertainment or sport. And if your company does not need to sign an expensive star to improve performance, you would not like to give the impression that your own chief is a second-rater on second-rate pay.

Pop stars' millions, much resented a generation ago, are now accepted as the outcome of market forces. That acceptance does not extend to pay of business leaders, few of whom are credited with giving pleasure to millions. An Incomes Data Services analysis found

that rewards of top paid directors in FT-SE 100 companies went up by 12.6 per cent to an average £685,000 in 12 months, and basic pay by 7.1 per cent. By comparison, employees' modest average earnings rose 3.8 per cent.

If market forces produce unacceptable gaps in living standards, the sensible way to redress the balance is through taxation. But tax cannot properly make a distinction between incomes earned by the socially OK and non-OK. So Labour, which now finds it politically convenient to abjure higher tax rates for high earners, is left to rail against the market mechanism and pretend that greater powers for shareholders or workers would do the trick. That is another illusion. Investors knock out the worst excesses if they have the chance. But they are more likely to sack a mediocre boss and hire an even more expensive one than to vote a pay cut. Hand-wringing and cat-calling aside, the future of fat cats is assured. The pressing issue is how to become one. How can you stop being an overhead to be paid a standard wage as low as possible and become a vital ingredient for success, to be recruited regardless of cost?

The best way is to get yourself on a league table. Box office and record charts forced the scramble to sign top entertainers. League tables drive the pay of football managers, goal tallies the fees of strikers. Ratings drive demand for fund managers and City analysts. As in the share price tables, you do not need to win. Star fees drag also creep up in their wake. How silly of teachers to oppose league tables of exam results. Rich schools are already beginning to poach top-performing headmasters.

Bidding up star pay to absurd levels has little to do with success. Sir Brian Pitman of Lloyds, the most successful banker of his generation, came up through the ranks, as did the architects of the modern BTR. Liverpool Football Club found that, once it established a system, humble home-grown managers were the best. Having to buy in at high prices is a sign of management failure. But don't tell anyone.



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

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SEPTEMBER 23 1996
CHOICE
ratsby
radio

Prime suspects and impossible dreamers

Most prime ministers walk up the steps of Downing Street on their toes and walk down them on their heels. The reason for this altered bearing is self-evident: they thought they were elected to govern the country whereas their real job is to provide an object of abuse for the rest of us.

Indeed, prime minister used to be a term of abuse, meaning somebody who got above himself, as Michael Cockerell reported in last night's *How To Be Prime Minister* (BBC2). Cockerell is the BBC's top man at the flesh-on-bones political documentary, but we learnt more from this programme about how not to be a prime minister than the reverse. Perhaps the job defies objective analysis as surely as it defies subjective execution.

The notion of a prime minister as first among equals is long gone. Robert Walpole first turned what

had been a description of a role into the title of an albeit under-defined job 300 years ago. Since, most prime ministers have been notable more for their power over political lives than as engines of change. As Tony Benn said last night: "The power of patronage is the glue that holds everything together."

One striking sequence involved the arrival of Edward Heath at Downing Street in 1970 and Margaret Thatcher's accession nine years later. Heath's aim: "Where there are differences to bring reconciliation." Thatcher's aim: "Where there is discord may we bring harmony." Either different realities employ similar rhetoric, or the realities are not so different after all.

The section in which Joe Haines, former press secretary to Harold Wilson, revealed that Wilson wanted the Foreign Office to have Idi Amin assassinated has received wide coverage. The FO apparently rejected this request on the ground that it didn't have anybody to do the job. An understaffed FO? Hasten the day.

What emerged last night was a tale of desperation, a hopeless quest to succeed against the tide of paperwork and the deadly whirlpools of crisis management. Beyond the Cockerell highlighted differences of personality, Heath in 1970 feeling no sense of destiny ("You just get on with the job") whereas James Callaghan in 1976 stood at the Cabinet table for the first time feeling "almost a religious sensation".

We saw three Prime Ministers, Wilson, Heath and Major, being asked by three interviewers, a question along the lines of: "A year ago you were 20 points ahead in the polls, now you are the most unpopular Prime Minister in living memory. Why is that?" To

the managerialism of a Heath, the style of a Macmillan and the sleep requirements of a Thatcher.

If that is the recipe, we should not expect the cake to be baked any time soon. Even if it was, something resembling BSE or a minister caught in bed with a wannabe actress would soon arrive to make this paragon the most unpopular prime minister in living memory.

One of the most popular comedy creations in living memory was Reginald Perrin, who departed our screens when Leonard Rossier, who played him, died in 1994. David Nobbs wrote the original series, which began in the 1970s, and has now written *The Legacy of Reginald Perrin* (BBC1). It is a sequel a wise move?

Often as not, not. But this series shows real promise. Perrin is now truly dead and the first episode concerns his funeral and the reading of the will (the gravestone shows Perrin's full initials as RIP).

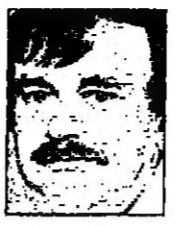
much swash in my buckle as the next, or, man, but I cannot connect with *Rhodes*. Yes, it is beautifully photographed and well written, and certainly Rhodes is a half-forgotten hero of the old school, who deserves a lavish series.

The second episode was madder than the first but I remain at a loss to care what happens. The piece seems bloodless, as if the life had been crafted out of it. I want this kind of series to succeed because, in the old cliché, this is what the BBC is all about, this is what it does best.

But this is not the best the BBC can do. As if the pace were not slow enough, we have Frances Barber asked to play the ludicrous Princess Radziwill, used as a device to prompt Martin Shaw as Rhodes to tell his own story. I'm afraid it doesn't work. Honestly, men.

● Lynne Truss will appear tomorrow

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

which none of them gave the only sensible answer: why not?

Peter Hennessy, a professor of modern history, offered the qualities for a successful prime minister: "The panache and flair of a Disraeli, the grandeur of a Gladstone, the brains of an Asquith, the balls of a Lloyd George, the consensual skills of a Baldwin, the workpower of a Churchill, the administrative gifts of an Attlee."

CHOICE

Cutting Edge: Inheritance (Channel 4, 9.00pm)
Not only can you not take it with you, you can't be sure you are leaving it safely either. Through legal loopholes, inheritors are losing their expected windfalls to virtual strangers. Complete with curling smoke, steaming coffee mug and open laptop, journalist Tim Toner plays the sleuth by investigating the activities of Sybil Dreda-Owen. Along with her daughter, she has benefited from the wills of a succession of elderly, lonely gentlemen living in Hampshire. It sounds like something out of a crime novel. Walter Joslin's will was commonly known to benefit his local church and his only relative, his nephew. But ten days after Joslin's funeral (which she neither attended nor attended) Dreda-Owen appeared with a simple, handwritten scrap of paper claiming it to be his last will. She was named his executrix and her daughter his sole heir. The only witness to the truth is dead and dead men don't tell tales.

Pioneers: An Affair of the Heart (BBC2, 9.00pm)
Heart surgery is as old as the NHS itself. Since 1948 it has undergone radical changes employing ever more complex procedures and innovations. Donald Ross was not only a witness to those changes but made some of them himself. He carried out the first successful operation on a hole-in-the-heart child less than a year old in 1962 and is best known for his work on replacement heart valves. In the 1980s he built up the New Heart Hospital into an international centre and was part of the first British attempt at transplants. It is strange that a man who regularly spends hours up to his elbows in viscera is squeamish when it comes to accident scenes. For the viewer the sight of the exposed beating human heart might provide a similar reaction.

Homicide: Life on the Street (Channel 4, 10.00pm)
Homicide tends to get lumped in with those other fine examples of American dramas, *NYPD Blue* and *ER*. True, it has the signature hand-held cameras, jump cuts and double takes that create that flashy pace. But unlike them it is not the bastard son of Steven Bochco's *Hill Street Blues*. Instead, the inspiration comes from executive producer Barry Levinson, the film director responsible for movies like *Tin Men* and *Diner*, where the action was secondary to the fast-fading philosophising of ordinary guys on extraordinary jobs. Tonight's episode is a prime example. Faced with a truck killer on his way up from Florida on the interstate, the cops talk about anything from giving up smoking to what kind of mind could kill with such random abandon. The unnecessary twist at the end is the only thing that lets down this sophisticated drama.

Seinfeld (BBC2, 11.00pm)
A (literally) fleshy offering from the US sitcom starring stand-up comedian Jerry Seinfeld as a stand-up comedian called Jerry Seinfeld. The action centres around the local health club where Seinfeld has met and dated Sidra, a gorgeous woman played by Teri Hatcher (1989). The truth is that *Seinfeld* is a superb comedy and much is made of the Superman connection and Hatcher's sex symbol status. Apparently Sidra's figure is subject to much discussion: is it natural or due to breast implants? And how does Seinfeld go about finding out the flesh from the fake? The truth is that *Seinfeld* is a superb comedy and much is made of the Superman connection and Hatcher's sex symbol status. Apparently Sidra's figure is subject to much discussion: is it natural or due to breast implants? And how does Seinfeld go about finding out the flesh from the fake?

6.00am GMTV (32533)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (Teletext) (s) (8304548) 9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (3431148) 10.00 The Time of the Place (85033) 10.30 This Morning (42543014)
12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (7814588) 12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (2911323) 12.55 Shortland Street (s) (990014) 1.25 Coronation Street (r) (Teletext) (3705110) 2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (97502410) 2.25 Cuisine Calendar (Teletext) (7828694) 3.20 News (Teletext) (7824694) 3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (7823965) 3.30 Tots TV Classics (801897) 3.40 The Slow Norris (403033) 3.50 Wolves, Wolves and Giants (872365) 4.05 Scooby and Co (7247507) 4.25 Scooby Doo (Teletext) (724555) 4.50 How 2 (Teletext) (7705656)
5.10 Home and Away (s) (8122520) 5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (270252) 6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (598994) 6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (863507) 6.50 Let's Go (162994) 7.00 The List (8830) 7.00 Bruce's Price is Right (Teletext) (8830)



Sherie Hewson as Maureen (7.30pm)

7.30 Coronation Street Andy is concerned about his father's excessive drinking (Teletext) (781)
8.00 World in Action exposes a legal loophole, that allows thieves to sell stolen cars to the public (Teletext) (s) (2878)
9.30 The Upper Hand Charlie dashes to Paris to prove his daughter's marriage (Teletext) (s) (1385)
9.00 FILM: The Assassination (1993). Bridget Fonda plays a drug-taking police officer who is sentenced to death by lethal injection but then her life is spared and she is trained to become a government assassin. Also starring Gabriel Byrne, Dermot Mulroney and Anne Bancroft. Directed by John Badham. Continued after the news (Teletext) (s) (3894)
10.00 News and weather (Teletext) (79138) 10.30 Regional News (Teletext) (882410) 10.40 The Assassination. Concludes (887491)
11.40 FILM: Bay Boy (1989) with Mario Van Peebles, Alfre Woodard and Elizabeth Ashley. A former LA district attorney believes to suspect that her boss's wife is involved in a socialite's murder. Directed by Karen Arthur (s) (719323)
1.30 Bushell on the Box (s) (11724) 2.00 The Crime Hour (32528) 3.00 The Big Bang (Teletext) (162555) 3.15 The Coach (s) (457808) 4.05 Jones and Jerry (s) (802954) 4.30 The Time... the Place (r) (s) (86540) 5.00 The Entertainers (r) (39144) 5.30 TSN Morning News (50505)



James Cagney in Angels with Dirty Faces (9.00pm, TNT)

SKY TRAVEL
11.00am Bonanza (559120) 11.30 America's Great Outdoors (3182148) 12.00pm Bruce & Bob East America (787558) 1.00pm Gateway (403014) 1.30 The Old House (408033) 2.30 Make Your Own Adventure (542304) 2.30 Cruising the Globe (384052) 3.00 Globetrotter (545148) 3.30-4.00 Around the World (s) 4.30 News
THE HISTORY CHANNEL
4.00pm Biography (550472) 5.00 Modern Marvels (542549) 6.00 The Life and Times of Lord Mordred (548120) 7.00-8.00 Biography (771419)
THE SCI-FI CHANNEL
Firm, feature and classic series every day from 8.00pm to 11.00pm. Wednesday and Thursday - Sunday on satellite, and from 8pm-4am every day on cable. 8.00pm Steven Spielberg's Amazing Stories (545216) 8.30 Steven Spielberg's Amazing Stories (545167) 9.00 Outer Limits (870323) 10.00 Secrets of the Paranormal (582553) 10.30 Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (582553) 11.00 Friday

6.00am Open University: The Structure of Liquids (Superfoot) (2857033) 6.25 Database Development (2875168) 6.50 A Source of Power for the State (498471)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (834782) 7.30 Alvin and the Chipmunks (989005) 7.55 Blue Peter (285588) 8.20 King Greenfingers (1652120) 8.25 Tales of a Cow (807587) 8.35 Lesale (2211762) 9.00 Daytime on Two: TV (82559) 9.30 Cosmo and Dibs in Pajamas (836143) 9.40 MegaMaths (227225) 10.00 Playdays (16697) 10.30 Hotch Potch House (1368782) 10.50 Look and Read (1385526) 11.10 Zig Zag: Food and Farming (8018007) 11.30 Ghostwriter (9762) 12.00 GINVA (29533) 12.30pm Working Lunch (33594) 1.00 History File (7367439) 1.20 Spanish Globe (6317971) 1.25 Landmarks (7366946) 1.45 Storytime (4583120) 2.00 King Greenfingers (2313343) 2.05 Tales of a Cow (2453976) 2.10 Liberal Democrat Conference: Live coverage from Brighton (s) (532052) 3.55 News (Teletext) and weather (4459782) 4.00 Today's Day (s) (864) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (528) 5.00 Esther (s) (9188) 5.30 Going, Going, Gone (878) 6.00 UFO (r) (Teletext) (s) (988526) 6.45 Conference Talk: Andrew Neil with a live phone-in programme involving the politicians making the news. Plus a report from the Liberal Democrat conference in Brighton (s) (833007) 7.30 Portuguese Grand Prix: Highlights of yesterday's race in Estoril (r) (55892) 8.05 People's Century: 1948 Boston Times. The story of postwar recovery is told by families who put the privations and hardships of 1945 behind them and enjoyed a prosperity that had previously seemed unattainable (r) (Teletext) (s) (302675) 9.00 Nine O'Clock News: regional news and weather (Teletext) (4205) 9.30 Panorama: Children Behaving Badly. Nursery delinquents (Teletext) (802304) 10.10 Chicago Hope: Rise from the Dead. Hospital administrator Alan Birch and chief of staff Dr Philip Waters are placed in a difficult position when the distraught wife of a comatose patient asks the impossible. Starring Hector Elizondo and Peter Macnolly (Teletext) (s) (644728) 10.55 Film 96 with Barry Norman. Reviews of some of the week's new releases, including Last Tango in Paris, starring Bruce Willis; Multiplicity, starring Michael Keaton in a variety of guises; and Jane Eyre, the classic story, with William Hurt and Charlotte Gainsbourg. Kate Winslet and director Michael Winterbottom talk about the making of Jude (Teletext) (s) (690965) 11.25 FILM: Go Tell the Spartans (1978). Corbin Bernsen, a soldier in Vietnam, joins a solitary American corporal in an attempt to rescue a group of Vietnamese militiamen surrounded by the Vietcong. Directed by Ted Post (Teletext) (759032) 1.15-1.20am Weather (2151502)

As HTV WEST except:
2.50pm-3.20 Look and Cook (7828694) 6.25 Wales Tonight (757507) 7.00-7.30 Welsh Fashion Awards 1996 (8830)
WESTCOUNTRY
As HTV West except:
12.55 Coronation Street (2986014) 1.25-1.55 Cuisine (8853217) 1.55 Home and Away (81948205) 2.25 The Body - a User's Guide (97512897) 2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (1450965) 3.10-4.40 Home and Away (8122520) 6.00 Westcountry Live (45439) 7.00-7.30 Bruce's Price is Right (8830)
CENTRAL
As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (2986014) 1.25 Cuisine (8853217) 1.55 A Country Practice (32255865) 2.20 Blue Heelers (7351878) 3.10-4.40 Shortland Street (8122520) 6.25 Central News and Weather (757507) 7.00-7.30 Bruce's Price is Right (8830) 11.40 Bagdad Cafe (852439) 12.10am Beyond Reality (6489085) 12.45 Nationwide Football League Extra (1398811) 1.30 The Crime Hour (10347) 2.30 Jones and Jerry (7349960) 2.50 Film: Pit of Darkness (718705)

As HTV West except:
12.55 Cuisine. Cookery quiz with Chris Kelly (2986014) 1.25 Home and Away (8853217) 1.55 A Country Practice (32255865) 2.25-3.20 Blue Heelers (7350149) 3.10 Home and Away (8122520) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (217) 6.30 Spirit of the South: Pat Man of Kent (897) 7.00-7.30 Bruce's Price is Right (8830) 5.00am Freetext (39144)
SAT
Starts: 6.35 Hammerman (3643584) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (30694) 8.00 Bless This House (10255) 9.30 Schools: Geography Junction (8347852) 9.45 Sang-Di-Fang (8335014) 10.00 Flamingo Technology (6523897) 10.15 Learn Sign Language (7516859) 10.20 Place and People (4524385) 10.40 The English Programme (1363894) 11.05 Encyclopaedia Galactica (4238528) 11.15 The Mix (5334507) 11.30 Rat-a-tat-tat! (3773894) 11.45 Junior Technology (878148) 12.00 Right to Reply (90491) 12.30pm Backstage (28782) 1.00 Slot Melthrin: Calf Sall Mail (33781) 1.30 Film: Little Nellie (22499472) 3.20 The Wrong Planet (7613588) 3.30 The Living Sea: Planets (675) 4.00 Fifteen to One (410) 4.30 Puma (694) 5.00 5 Pump: Round a Round (88217) 5.15 5 Pump: Phil (7511743) 5.30 Countdown (946) 6.05 Hero (574742) 6.35 Jacquet (766439) 7.00 Pobel Y Cwm (877304) 7.25 Taro New (435007) 8.00 Er Mwyn Tad (3120) 8.30 Newyddion (2255) 9.00 Frasier: The Friend (3965) 9.30 Friends (88526) 10.00 The Gargle (4323) 11.00 The American Football Big Match (453120) 12.00am Portpale (1638250) 12.50 The Lovers (6489637) 1.20 Close 4.00 Yagollon (52811)

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As HTV WEST except:
2.50pm-3.20 Look and Cook (7828694) 6.25 Wales Tonight (757507) 7.00-7.30 Welsh Fashion Awards 1996 (8830)
WESTCOUNTRY
As HTV West except:
12.55 Coronation Street (2986014) 1.25-1.55 Cuisine (8853217) 1.55 Home and Away (81948205) 2.25 The Body - a User's Guide (97512897) 2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (1450965) 3.10-4.40 Home and Away (8122520) 6.00 Westcountry Live (45439) 7.00-7.30 Bruce's Price is Right (8830)
CENTRAL
As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (2986014) 1.25 Cuisine (8853217) 1.55 A Country Practice (32255865) 2.20 Blue Heelers (7351878) 3.10-4.40 Shortland Street (8122520) 6.25 Central News and Weather (757507) 7.00-7.30 Bruce's Price is Right (8830) 11.40 Bagdad Cafe (852439) 12.10am Beyond Reality (6489085) 12.45 Nationwide Football League Extra (1398811) 1.30 The Crime Hour (10347) 2.30 Jones and Jerry (7349960) 2.50 Film: Pit of Darkness (718705)

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DEADLINE 45

Ian Lang awaits
MMC verdict on
SW Water bids

BUSINESS

BOARD PAY 46

Cats given chance
to stay fat, says
Graham Searjeant



MONDAY SEPTEMBER 23 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Former rail director paid £4m for eight days' work

By Jonathan Prynne
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER British Rail director has made one of the most spectacular financial returns in commercial history with a £4 million windfall profit for just eight days' work with a privatised rail company.

Peter Watson, who was British Rail's technical director in the early 1990s, made the equivalent of £500,000 for each day he was

contracted to work during his eight months as the part-time, non-executive chairman of the Porterbrook train leasing company. He invested £25,000 of his own money in shares in the company when it was sold to a management buyout team last December and attended board meetings once a month.

The investment was worth more than £4 million when the company was bought for £825 million by Stagecoach, the bus and rail com-

pany, in August, eight months after it was privatised.

Dr Watson's profit per day worked out at £500,000 daily rate charged by a top London barrister or the £25,000 a week earned by Britain's highest paid footballers.

"Formally I had a contract for a day a month with the company. I did a little bit more than that for them but I don't want to go into that," said Dr Watson, 52, who stepped down as chairman earlier this month.

Andrew Smith, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said the size of the windfall exposed Government hypocrisy over pledges to curb "fat cat" excesses during the rail sell-off.

"It is another Tory lie when Brian Mawhinney said in 1995 that he was looking at the issue of executive remuneration during rail privatisation," he said. "When Porterbrook's chairman walks away with £500,000 for a day's work it is a boardroom bonanza in the extreme. Dr Watson's £4 million windfall

goes to show the Tories are guilty of selling short our national assets."

Porterbrook is one of three train leasing companies that together own the 16,000 former British Railway fleet of trains and carriages sold by the Government last November for £1.8 billion. It leases 3,774 trains and carriages to 16 rail operating companies.

Dr Watson, who was the Technical Director of British Rail between 1991 and 1994, is now chief executive of AEA Technology, the science and

research arm of the Atomic Energy Authority, which is being prepared for a £200 million flotation later this year.

Dr Watson has pledged that no "fat cat" windfall gains will be made by AEA Technology's directors through the flotation, a commitment that has impressed few in the rail industry.

"Why should he worry about his next fortune when he can say 'here's one I made earlier'?" said one industry source.

Norwich decides on £4bn flotation

By Lindsay Cook

NORWICH UNION will formally announce in the next two weeks that it is to float on the Stock Exchange next summer and give bonuses averaging £700 to its three million with-profits policyholders.

The UK's second biggest mutual insurance company plans to be the first to come to the stock market. But before the conversion can go ahead policyholders must vote at an extraordinary meeting to be held in London in the spring. The insurer has to find a venue large enough to hold tens of thousands of policyholders and is likely to choose London Arena, although two other venues are understood to be in negotiation.

The flotation, which will value the insurer at around £4 billion, will allow Norwich Union to raise extra capital to take part in the widespread consolidation in the financial services industry.

The bonus payments are expected to be paid in shares and would be in line with the amounts paid by building societies to their members.

The announcement will come almost exactly one year after rumours began circulating in the City that the Norwich was planning to convert.

At the time the insurer confirmed that it was studying the possibility of demutualisation and flotation and that the board had come to the preliminary view that "this course of action would produce significant benefits to members of The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society and assist the overall development of Norwich Union".

However, Norwich Union is known to want a tight schedule in order to avoid large numbers of policyholders feeling that they have lost out on a bonus because their policies mature between the announcement and actual conversion.

The conversion date is likely to be in June, the minimum time needed to undertake it. The Halifax Building Society announced its plans to convert in November 1994 and will become a bank next year.

The first official notification to the policyholders will be a letter explaining the strategy and the need for change from Allan Bridgewater, the chief executive.

Clarke looks to defy George on rate increase

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, seems certain to resist Eddie George's call for higher interest rates when he meets the Governor of the Bank of England today, widening the rift between the Treasury and the Bank over monetary policy.

Growing evidence that the consumer side of the economy is strengthening — including strong retail sales and money supply figures — appears to virtually rule out a further cut in interest rates. But the markets also believe that Mr Clarke will continue to refuse to raise rates before the election.

A poll of 20 economists by Reuters on Friday showed that not one thought there was a chance of a rate change at the meeting. Most believe that rates will remain at their

current 5.75 per cent until after the election.

The meeting is scheduled to begin early this afternoon so, if there was any decision to change rates, this would not be signalled until tomorrow morning when the Bank operates in the money markets.

The minutes of the July 30 monetary meeting, published last week, showed that Mr George would prefer to see rates raised to 6 per cent because of the risk that strong consumer demand could lead to a build-up of inflationary pressures. The Chancellor assured the Governor that he would be prepared to raise rates if necessary but only when he perceived inflationary pressures. He argued that there was no evidence of this at the moment. Although

growth is accelerating, economists said that it is still not strong enough for there to be any urgency about raising rates, particularly if inflation remains low.

Philip Shaw, chief economist at Union Discount, suggested that the Chancellor's dilemma would only become acute if growth started to grow by around 1 per cent a quarter. In the second quarter, growth was only 0.4 per cent.

Mr Shaw said: "Should growth begin to challenge the 1 per cent a quarter level, the Chancellor has a dilemma on his hands. He would undoubtedly wish to avoid raising rates ahead of a general election for political reasons."

"But such a stance would be increasingly difficult to justify, especially if the election takes place as late as May."

□ Spending with credit and debit cards broke through the £7 billion mark in August, a 27 per cent rise on August 1995, according to the Credit Card Research Group. Debit card spending was up 37 per cent on a year ago at over £3 billion, while credit card spending jumped 21 per cent to more than £4 billion.

The Credit Card Research Group said that these larger than usual year-on-year rises were partly because of weakness in August 1995, and partly because of summer sales this year in which consumers funded 30 per cent of their purchases on plastic.

Economic outlook, page 43



Water power: National Grid fended off a brush with the law to win the Ellis and Buckle Industry Sailing Masters Trophy yesterday. The yacht, which was rammed by the Law Society's entry, beat Deloitte & Touche into second place.

Lloyd's bonuses enrage names

By Oliver August

LOYD'S names yesterday vented their anger at the £400,000 bonus for David Rowland, the Lloyd's chairman.

Mr Rowland and other senior executives are to receive large bonuses as a reward for the successful conclusion of the controversial £3.2 billion reform programme, which is widely seen to have saved Lloyd's from collapse. Ron

Sandler, the Lloyd's chief executive, is to receive a bonus of £100,000.

The bonus payments were not disclosed in documents related to the reform package but will be declared in the next Lloyd's annual report. Mr Rowland's basic salary is £500,000, while Mr Sandler receives £250,000.

The bonuses were criticised by Christopher Stockwell, chairman of the Lloyd's Names Association Working

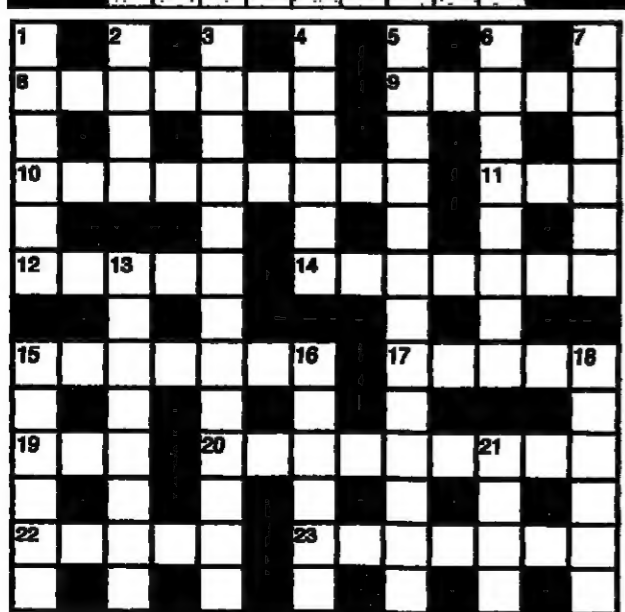
Party. He said: "The thousands of names who accepted the settlement offer under duress in what was a fudged deal without honesty or credit will find the bonuses totally unacceptable."

A Lloyd's spokesman responded by saying: "The bonus for Mr Rowland is in recognition of the central role he played in saving Lloyd's. He made a lot of personal sacrifices. Six months ago most observers thought im-

possible what has now been achieved."

The bonuses were recommended by the Lloyd's remuneration committee and accepted by the Council, of which names' representatives are members. Mr Rowland is said to have refused pay increases and bonuses since he joined Lloyd's in 1993 because he thought them inappropriate until the insurance market's problems had been resolved.

Times Two Crossword



No 894

ACROSS

- 8 Illegal power seizer (7)
- 9 Escort: helper to seat (5)
- 10 Sheer cliff (9)
- 11 Unhappy (3)
- 12 Unspoken, understood (5)
- 14 Hugs (7)
- 15 Officer i/c fleet (7)
- 17 Very fat (5)
- 19 Fastener: secret number for card (3)
- 20 Abstruse (9)
- 22 First Indian PM (5)
- 23 Necessary (7)

DOWN

- 1 Preacher's place (6)
- 2 Unalloyed (4)
- 3 Defeating minority (8,5)
- 4 Self-evident remark (6)
- 5 A silk (6,7)
- 6 A county: a cheese (8)
- 7 A restraint: to show annoyance (6)
- 13 Am. Ind. people: coachmen (anag.) (8)
- 15 Add at end (6)
- 16 Gap in manuscript (6)
- 18 Smoothly, regularly (6)
- 21 Questionable (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 893

ACROSS: 1 Plump; 7 Elysian; 8 Chevron; 9 Therapy; 11 Desist; 13 Hot point; 15 Publisher; 19 Robust; 21 Pretend; 23 Abusive; 24 Unclean; 25 Dwell.

DOWN: 1 Paced; 2 Unease; 3 Parish; 4 Vent; 5 Astral; 6 Harpoon; 10 Hopper; 12 Tusin; 14 Currant; 16 Little; 17 Rotund; 18 Pumice; 20 Trent; 22 Dank.

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Bidders desert LT ticketing project

By Keith Rodgers

THE Government's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) has run into further problems after three out of four shortlisted bidders pulled out of a massive project to redevelop London Transport's ticketing operations.

Their decision means that the sole bidder for the contract, valued at hundreds of millions of pounds, is a consortium consisting of ICL, the computer services giant, the US computer services supplier Cubic Corporation and WS Atkins Consultants.

The LT scheme, dubbed Prestige, is designed to replace bus and Underground tickets with contactless "smart cards". The aim is to speed up ticket sales, cut fraud and improve information about customer travel patterns.

LT had invited four consortia to bid by September 13, with the winner sharing the risks of the project under the PFI programme. However, it emerged this weekend that a consortium led by BT pulled out a week before the deadline. According to London Transport, BT had decided that its capital had a stronger case.

LT confirmed that a second consortium led by Olivetti, the Italian-owned computer manufacturer, had already withdrawn because it did not want to commit the resources to submitting a bid based on LT's specifications, preferring to put in a "variable" proposal with its own amendments. The group had included Andersen Consulting, SBC Warburg, Citibank International, KPMG Corporate Finance and National Express.

Another consortium, led by

IBM, also decided not to bid "for commercial reasons". An LT spokesman claimed IBM's US parent company had concluded that the rate of return was too low.

The withdrawal of the three bidders, which had been selected after a year-long tendering process, is another blow for the Government's efforts to bring private capital into the public sector through competitive bids. There have been complaints that the PFI programme's tendering process is too costly and lengthy, prompting suppliers to back off from bids they do not believe they have a strong chance of winning.

LT said it will now evaluate the sole bid against the cost of a traditional publicly funded purchase. A decision on whether to go ahead is expected at the end of the year.

IN BUSINESS TOMORROW



A rise in US rates should not be seen as the end of the Fed's brave experiment, says JANET BUSH

IR to hear Nissan UK tax appeal

A corporation tax appeal from Octav Botnar, the exiled former head of Nissan UK, is expected to be heard early next month.

But the Inland Revenue emphasised yesterday that there was still a warrant for the arrest of Mr Botnar, 82, whose car importing business was raided by tax officials five years ago, and he would be seized if he returned to Britain from Switzerland.

Mr Botnar is said to have won fights with the Revenue over personal taxation and made progress over £250 million corporation tax for Nissan UK. He is expected to offer video evidence in the appeal for his former company.

SFO to act

The Serious Fraud Office is expected to launch a formal investigation this week into Peter Young, the fund manager dismissed by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell for gross misconduct last week.

The SFO has been in daily contact with the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro) since September 2, when Mr Young was suspended and an investigation launched into three trusts managed by Morgan Grenfell. Imro is conducting its own investigation.

Inchcape sale

Inchcape, the car distributor and trading group, is expected to announce the £380 million disposal of its testing services business and reveal further details of the demerger of Bain Hogg, its insurance broking operation, when it reports interim results today. Brokers forecast pre-tax profits of £80 million.

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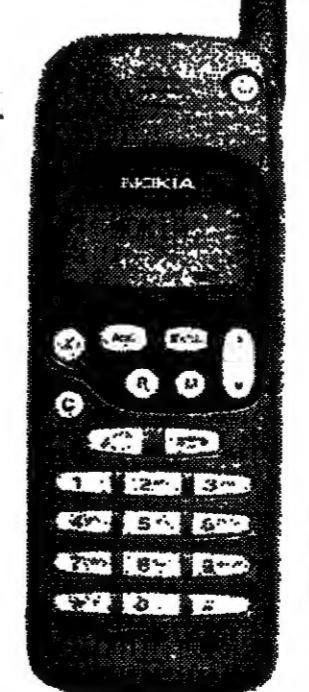
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